

Crane Thoroughbreds keeps working | Remembering Hunt Cup hero Winton

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 28, Issue 6
JUNE 2020



Pushing On

As virus plays out, racing starts to reawaken

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Photo by Tracy Meyer



May 14 at Charles Town. Racing returns to the region. Page 18

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

In this issue

Covid-19 Impact: Racing and breeding

Farms stuck to breeding, foaling, raising and caring for future racehorses while minding health guidelines, dealing with an economic downturn and wondering about the future. Racetracks planned for a return to action, without fans and with potentially decreased revenues. And the Preakness found a make-up date. By Joe Clancy and Tom Law. [Page 18](#)

Grams finds niche in West Virginia

Known for Charles Town Classic-G2 winner Runnin'toluvya, owner/trainer Tim Grams builds a business in West Virginia. By Katie Bo Williams. [Page 26](#)

Pressing on at Crane Thoroughbreds

Pennsylvania horseman Clovis Crane and family recover from a barn fire, and eye Fasig-Tiptons' rescheduled 2-year-old sale at Timonium this month. By Joe Clancy. [Page 30](#)

Discount diamonds find ways to shine

The Mid-Atlantic is filled with sales bargains who found success—from 3-year-old stakes winner Lebda to veteran turf runner Two Notch Road and everything in between—and proved their worth. By Cindy Deubler. [Page 34](#)

Place of honor on list of Hunt Cup heroes

The Maryland Hunt Cup has zero four-time winners (still). Among the nine to win three, 1940s star Winton stands tall. By Sean Clancy. [Page 38](#)

Cover: Masked jockey Carol Cedeno gallops a horse at Parx Racing while racing in the region was shut down during the pandemic. Photo by Equi-Photo, Inc.

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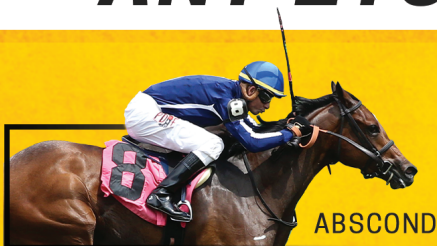
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Midlantic

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### Yearling Show Purse awards total \$40,000

There are two opportunities to win purse awards with the yearling you show in 2020. A \$40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse will be split and distributed twice: \$20,000 will go to the top four money-winners racing as 2-year-olds in 2021\* and another \$20,000 will be awarded the following year to the four highest-earning 3-year-old performers\*.

\*all earnings verifiable by The Jockey Club

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The Maryland Million certified yearling earning the highest ribbon in each class will receive **\$100**.

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## Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 28, Issue 6

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## POST TIME

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**WASH YOUR HOOVES.** Mares Harlan's Treasure and Princess Charlotte follow global health instructions—sort of—at West Virginia's O'Sullivan Farms in May.

*Laura Russman*







## COVER BOY



Alphabet Soup, oldest living winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 and a resident of Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm in Georgetown, Ky., appears on the cover of the May 2020 issue of *Smithsonian*. The 29-year-old Pennsylvania-bred and a number of other farm residents are featured in the story about Old Friends Equine founder and president

Michael Blowen and the farm. Written by Jay Hovdey, with photographs by Annie Marie Musselman, the article appears on the magazine's website and includes images of Alphabet Soup (resident since 2015) and his miniature donkey companion Gorgeous George, as well as 28-year-old West Virginia-bred graded stakes winner Afternoon Deelites (resident since 2011) and 18-year-old New Jersey-bred star Joey P. (resident since 2018).

## SAY IT AGAIN

"Who would have ever thought it would have worked out like that?"

*Owner/trainer Tim Grams, about the success of West Virginia-bred star Runnin'tolunya after surgery and more than a year away from the races*

"Never let school get in the way of a good education."

*Trainer Clovis Crane, on raising kids on a farm (during a pandemic)*

"If it took you life or death to get a grand, you know it ain't going for no \$5,000."

*Trainer Charles "Snake" Frock on his grandson bidding on Taco Supream at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale. Cameron Frock signed the ticket for \$1,600.*

"One thing about our industry, and you can really see it now. When something like that (a barn fire at Crane Thoroughbreds) happens to somebody, the wagons just circle and everybody helps out. Financially or whatever, they jump in and try to do something."

*Trainer John Servis, about horsemen helping horsemen during tough times*

## MILESTONES

**Became:** Maryland law, the Racing and Community Development Act of 2020, without the signature of Gov. Larry Hogan, in May. The legislation, passed with broad support by the state's House of Delegates and Senate in March, calls for the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$375 million in bonds for the rebuilding of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park into state-of-the-art facilities. The funding combines resources from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account, the Purse Dedication Account, video lottery terminal payments to Baltimore City and money from the Maryland Lottery. The act took effect June 1. The plan was put in place last summer by Alan Foreman of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, the Maryland Jockey Club's Bill Rifkin and Bill Cole representing Baltimore City. The plan includes a new stable area, training facility and synthetic racing surface at Laurel and the ability to use the new Pimlico as a year-round event and community center. A major part of the legislation keeps the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico and gives the racetrack property to the city. The legislation passed both houses on the final day

of a General Assembly session shortened by the spread of coronavirus, which ultimately led to a shutdown of numerous Maryland businesses and industries, including live horse racing. The economic climate may impact the projects, but the Maryland Stadium Authority was expected to begin design work. Hogan vetoed some bills that increased state spending, but the Pimlico/Laurel bill employs funds already dedicated to the industry to finance the project.

**Died:** Pennsylvania-bred graded stakes winner Call Paul, due to a training injury at Belmont Park May 6. Bred by Beasie Patterson and Vicky Schowe, Call Paul won six of his 14 stars and earned \$573,720 including victories in the Saratoga Special-G2 and Swale-G3 for Michael Dubb, David Simon and Bethlehem Stables. In addition to the graded stakes wins, Call Paul won a maiden special weight and the New Castle Stakes at Delaware Park and two Pennsylvania-bred stakes. The son of Friesan Fire and the Forestry mare Avani Force had been transferred to trainer Rob Atlas after Jason Servis' license was suspended by the New York Gaming

Commission when a federal indictment alleged he administered illegal medications to his horses.

**Created:** A rule limiting the annual breeding of individual stallions to 140 broodmares, The Jockey Club. The rule will apply to stallions born in 2020 or later and amends Rule 14C of the Principal Rules and Requirements of the American Studbook: "Based on the information on a completed Report of Mares Bred form, The Jockey Club will forward to the stallion owner, lessee or authorized agent a preprinted Service Certificate for each broodmare bred, including the name of the stallion, the name of the broodmare, the name of the dam of the broodmare, and the date of the last cover. The total number of broodmares bred per individual stallion whose year of birth is 2020 or thereafter shall not exceed 140 per calendar year in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The Jockey Club shall limit the number of Stallion Service Certificates for such stallions to a maximum of 140 per calendar year." The rule will promote diversity of the Thoroughbred gene pool and protect the long-term health of the



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## MID-ATLANTIC REPORT

### MILESTONES

breed, according to a statement issued by The Jockey Club. No limit has been applied to stallions born in 2019 and earlier. For more, see [registry.jockeyclub.com](http://registry.jockeyclub.com).

**Consolidated:** Its select yearling sales into one "Selected Yearlings Showcase" in Kentucky Sept. 9-10, Fasig-Tipton Company. The move canceled the company's July sale in Kentucky and the summer sales of select and New York-bred yearlings at Saratoga. Fasig-Tipton came to the decision after evaluating the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are excited to offer our buyers and sellers a selected yearling venue in Kentucky," said company president Boyd Browning. "We envision this catalog will

include yearlings that would traditionally fit our Saratoga sale, as well as those that would fall in the upper echelons of our July and New York-bred yearling sales." Fasig-Tipton expects the July, Saratoga and New York-bred yearling sales to return to their traditional dates in 2021, and intends to conduct its 2020 auction calendar as scheduled with the Midlantic 2-year-old sale June 29-30, the Midlantic fall yearling sale Oct. 12-13 and the Saratoga fall mixed sale (including select New York-bred yearlings) Oct. 20. Browning called 2020 a difficult year, for all in the industry. "We are all being forced to make decisions that we never envisioned having to make," he said. "We waited as long as possible to come to these determinations, conduct-

## GO FIGURE

—Pandemic Report—

*Equibase statistics for April 2020 vs. April 2019 reflected the impact of shuttered racetracks and limited racing opportunities in the United States during the coronavirus pandemic.*

**WAGERING:** Down 24.42 percent (good news, given the circumstances) from \$845.9 million to \$639.4 million.

**Purses:** Down 79.64 percent from \$85.9 million to \$17.5 million.

**Race Days:** Down 72.67 percent from 311 to 85.

**Races:** Down 71.44 percent from 2,612 to 746.

**Starts:** Down 65.48 percent from 19,728 to 6,810.

**Average Field Size:** Up 20.86 percent from 7.55 to 9.13.

**Average Wagering Per Race Day:** Up 176.54 percent from \$2.7 million to \$7.5 million.

**Year to Date** (through April) handle was down just 6.87 percent, but purses, race days, races and starts were all down more than 23 percent.



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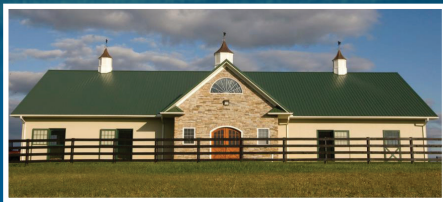
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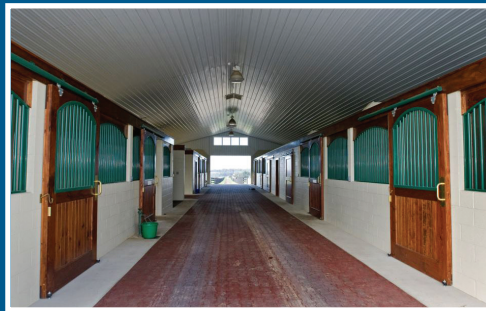
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## MILESTONES

ing our due diligence to ensure that we make informed decisions that are in the best interests of our buyers and sellers.” All yearlings catalogued in the Selected Yearlings Showcase will be approved on pedigree and physical conformation by Fasig-Tipton’s selection team ahead of the sale’s June 15 entry deadline. Free nominations are open at [fasigtipton.com](http://fasigtipton.com). Yearlings previously nominated to the July, Saratoga and New York-bred sales do not need to be re-nominated.

**Announced:** New medication rules restricting the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids and bronchodilators including Clenbuterol, Thoroughbred auction companies Fasig-Tipton and Keeneland. The rules are effective immediately and follow action in 2009 to ban the use of anabolic steroids in sales horses and last year’s ban on the off-label use of bisphosphonates in horses younger than 4. NSAIDS: All horses except 2-year-olds and horses in training can be administered no more than one NSAID within 24 hours prior to sale; 2-year-olds and horses in training can be administered no NSAIDs within 24 hours prior to sale. Corticosteroids: All horses except 2-year-olds and horses in training can be administered no more than one corticosteroid within 14 days prior to sale; 2-year-olds and horses in training can be administered no corticosteroid within 14 days prior to sale. Bronchodilators (including Clenbuterol): All horses with exception of broodmares, broodmare prospects, stallions and stal-

lion prospects are prohibited from being administered bronchodilators (including Clenbuterol) within 90 days of sale. The administration of a bronchodilator for valid, on-label purposes prior to July 1 of a horse’s yearling year is permitted, but must be disclosed in the repository with a note of explanation from the treating veterinarian. Buyers may now elect to have post-sale testing for anabolic steroids, bisphosphonates, bronchodilators and the use of NSAIDs and corticosteroids in violation of the conditions of sale.

**Elected:** To Thoroughbred racing’s Hall of Fame, two-time Horse of the Year Wise Dan and classic-winning trainer Mark Casse (in the contemporary category), jockey Darrel McHargue and racehorse Tom Bowling (via the Historic Review Committee) and pillars of the turf selections Alice Headley Chandler, J. Keene Daingerfield Jr. and George D. Widener Jr. Wise Dan starred in 2012 and 2013, winning Eclipse Awards as champion male turf horse, champion older male and Horse of the Year for owner/breeder Morton Fink and trainer Charlie LoPresti. Casse, 59, took out his trainer’s license at age 17 and won with his first starter in 1979. He has won more than 2,800 races and trained the earners of more than \$174.6 million including 2019 Preakness Stakes-G1 winner War of Will in addition to Eclipse Award winners Classic Empire, Shamrock Rose, Tepin and World Approval plus five Canadian Horses of the Year. McHargue retired in 1988 with 2,553 wins including

the 1975 Preakness aboard Master Derby and rode Hall of Famers John Henry, Ancient Title and My Juliet among others. Of the new pillars of the turf, Widener has deep regional connections as a Philadelphia native and owner of Erdenheim Farm outside that city. Widener bred 102 stakes winners including Jaipur and Eight Thirty. The induction ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 7 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

**Announced:** By the Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program, which encourages the retraining of Thoroughbreds into other disciplines, the winners and other placings from its 2019 program. Regional connections topping their divisions were: Maryland-bred gelding Crypt’s Wisper and Virginia rider Khilia Giacobone in English Pleasure; Pennsylvania-bred gelding Open Now and Emma Christina Scheier from New Jersey (Equitation); Crazy Man with Virginian Reba Merritt (Hunter); Pennsylvania-bred gelding Zenobio’s Gold, with Sarah Schwartz (Thoroughbred Charities of America Green OTTB II—last raced in 2018); and West Virginia-bred Pirate Captain and Marylander Hannah Ong (Thoroughbred Charities of America Green OTTB I—last raced in 2017 and Retired Racehorse Project Alumni Green OTTB Awards). The North Carolina Thoroughbred Association sponsored the North Carolina Residing Performance Award, which went to Cajun Red and owner/rider Myra Durham.

*A Maryland-bred Hero—25th Anniversary*

## CIGAR

### New England Coup

#### Massachusetts Handicap

June 3, 1995 - Suffolk Downs

**W**inning \$650,000 was never so easy. Suffolk Downs offered a \$500,000 bonus to a horse who could win the Gulfstream Park, Oaklawn, Pimlico Special and Massachusetts handicaps in 1995. Cigar was that horse.

The highweight at 124 pounds—giving 11 to 17 to the five who dared to face him—Cigar cruised home a 4-length winner as the shortest-priced favorite (1-5) in the Mass Cap’s 56-year history. In extending his winning streak to eight, Cigar pushed his earnings to \$2,229,815 in 21 starts.

Won by the likes of Seabiscuit, Whirlaway, Stymie and Riva Ridge, the Mass Cap was revived after a six-year hiatus by Suffolk chairman Jim Moseley, who saw the chance of putting the race back in the national spotlight with Cigar in the field. The result was a win for the track, although there was a minus pool of nearly \$10,000, even without show wagering. The crowd just shy of 13,000 was the largest at the Boston track for a Mass Cap since 1988.

Owner Allen Paulson flew in from Los Angeles and, after the race, talked with reporters about the challenges of owning a horse on such a roll: “The next one gets worse than the one before because you hate to break that string.”

Trainer Bill Mott shipped Cigar north from Belmont Park and after the race—Cigar’s 12th in 12 months—commented that the bay son of Palace Music and the Seattle Slew mare Solar Slew would get a short break and target Saratoga’s Whitney Handicap in August.

“It’ll be about 60 days before he runs again,” Mott told *The Blood-Horse*. “He’ll stay at Belmont jogging under tack.”



# Potential exists in face of crisis

By Joe Clancy

**L**ike the venture capitalist he is, Thoroughbred owner TK Kuegler looked at racing during a global health crisis and saw opportunity. He also saw plenty of potential for disaster, but he made sure to layer it with the chance for success, growth, change and improvement.

"In the horse world, prices are going to drop," he said. "If you have cash you can use, then you can buy at a greatly reduced price. There are opportunities to buy things you couldn't buy before."

Kuegler said that during a phone conversation in mid-April, from Hot Springs, Ark., where his Wasabi Ventures Stables kept a string of horses at Oaklawn Park for the meet. Wasabi's horses were going to Oaklawn anyway, but the move turned out to be prescient as the track was one of only a handful to race this spring. When Kuegler spoke, COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, had killed about 25,000 people in the United States. Responses around the country (and world) centered on mitigating the spread by closing businesses and schools, limiting contact with others, working from home, and taking all the other steps within the terms "social distancing" and "stay-at-home orders." A few weeks later, the U.S. death toll stood at more than 82,000 and was projected to climb as the virus spread from city centers to more rural areas.

Economic carnage lay everywhere—unemployment, the stock market, retail, quarterly earnings reports, travel, you name it. Racing, of course, felt the impact. National handle was down, though not as much as you might think. Purses and racing days were hit hardest. Auctions at Fasig-Tipton and Keeneland were eyeing tentative dates. Stable areas were closed to outsiders, or closed all together. Casinos which fuel purses and state breeding incentive programs were closed. For two months, and counting, racing in North America was basically limited to Oaklawn, Gulfstream Park, Tampa Bay Downs, Fonnar Park and Will Rogers Downs.

Kuegler's profession (he's the co-founder and managing partner of Wasabi Ventures, which specializes in building and advising early-stage technology companies) counts on being able to navigate economic winds, but even he was taken aback by 2020.



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"I hear people say it's like [economic dips] in 2001 or 2008," Kuegler said. "This is nothing like that. It's way worse because there is nothing that's not imploding. Every single thing is imploding. The only companies doing well are in the digital health space. A digital health or testing company is a good company to own now. Everyone else is tanking, across the board."

Despite it all, Kuegler remained bullish on racing and the enthusiasm it can generate with customers (and potential customers). He sees opportunity, in the region and beyond. Wasabi's racing venture isn't going anywhere any time soon. He answered some questions about his business, racing, and the future:

**You brought new stallion Force the Pass to Maryland for the 2020 breeding season. What has this meant for him?**

"We wanted 100 covers and I was beating the drum. We're probably going to get more like 70, which still probably makes us in the top three in Maryland and considering the situation that's OK. When the economy changes on you, then you have to modify. You can't keep doing what you did. It's not the same world anymore."

**Can a regional stallion potentially benefit in a situation like this?**

"If you're breeding to a regional stallion, and you've got a regional mare, late decisions are not so out of the ordinary. It's a little different in the regional game than it is in Kentucky. If the world starts to look less terrible, then I think you'll see people say, 'I've got a mare, is he available today?' And he will be."

**Besides lower prices, what happens to racing's economic model?**

"Since 2008, the racing world has built itself on trying to satisfy the commercial market, pinhookers who buy yearlings, get them ready, sell them at 2 at a profit, buy more yearlings, and the prices were going up. It was working. I don't know if that's going to commercially work as well now, because I'm not sure there are enough buyers on the back end. I think people are going to buy a yearling, hold it, run it themselves and that'll change the economics. I've got 13 yearlings. I have no choice but to push forward, because the market is not going to buy that many this year."

**Can racing adapt to that change?**

"It's very expensive to get a horse from birth to racing. That's a problem in our industry. You have to run that horse over its head in the beginning, because you can't lose it prematurely because you have so much invested. We have to fix the maiden claiming game. We should figure out a way to protect the horses, yet still handicap them, that gives you a chance to see if you can run the horse and not lose it. I'm very hopeful and I think in times of craziness like this, people get together and say, 'OK, remember when we were thinking about ideas? What can we do that's completely outside the box?' And, remember, what you do today doesn't affect racing today. It affects racing three years from now. Going back to Force the Pass, if he's covering 75 mares instead of 100, that's 25 less horses racing three years from now. That's across the board, with all stallions."

**Closed racetracks were a reminder of how much racing, especially in the region, counts on them. Do you see any changes in the racing calendar?**

"Either we will get cooperation and we'll have the same number of tracks running less days OR we will get fewer tracks. The economics will make that happen. There is a lot of racing in the Mid-Atlantic, and the real opportunity is in cooperation. If there's real cooperation, we can get real creative. We're all going to be in that same boat. This stinks for everyone. Can we get together and figure out a way to make this work better?"



# Bo's a Ten and Magic Weisner



*Inseparable since they first met five years ago, Magic Weisner, left, and Bo's a Ten will soon head to Old Friends in Kentucky.*

Valay and the Bold Forbes mare Jazema won the Maryland Juvenile Championship in 2001 and three stakes at Laurel Park leading up to the 2002 Triple Crown: the Goss L. Stryker, Deputed Testamony and Private Terms.

After Magic Weisner finished second in Pimlico's Federico Tesio, Alberts gave the local hero a shot at the Preakness.

Barreling down the stretch on the wrong lead, Magic Weisner finished three-quarters of a length behind Kentucky Derby-G1 winner War Emblem. Behind them in the field of 13 came Medaglia d'Oro and Harlan's Holiday. The near-miss brought down the house. Alberts nearly overshadowed winning trainer Bob Baffert.

Magic Weisner finished fourth in the Belmont Stakes won by 70-1 longshot Sarava before heading to Thistledown for the Ohio Derby-G2. Magic Weisner won by a neck over Wiseman's Ferry. Two weeks later he met War Emblem once more, at Monmouth in the Haskell Invitational-G1, again finishing second.

Alberts planned to run in the Pennsylvania Derby a month later, but she noticed some issues while training. A trip to New Bolton Center a few days before the race confirmed her suspicions—West Nile Virus.

"She did try to bring him back. He worked well, but the problem was coming out of the gate," Bunny said. "I think he had a little residue in one of the nerves in his hind end. When he got here to our farm, my wife wanted me to get on him. So I did, and I knew he wasn't right behind. She decided to

take him over to Vince Dugan, who got on him once and said, 'Take him home and just let him be a horse.' He's just been here enjoying life ever since."

Magic Weisner's quiet life changed five years ago when Bo's a Ten's former owner, Theresa Groff, moved her to Tarad Hill Farm.

"I really just wanted to trail ride, so that was when I moved her over to Bunny's farm," Groff said. "And she was phenomenal. But then we put her out in the field with Magic. And I've never experienced this with a horse before, but they just became inseparable. It was the

Carl "Bunny" Meister Jr. and his wife, Linda, received an offer they couldn't refuse. The buyers of their 133-acre Tarad Hill Farm in West Chester, Pa., planned to build a new home on the property, and the Meisters were welcome to stay in the farmhouse Bunny has occupied since the 1960s. But the change in ownership dictated that the Meisters rehome their horses, several of whom have lived at Tarad Hill for years.

Their first concern was for a 20-year-old mare and the 21-year-old gelding from whom she is now inseparable.

"The mare's name is Bo's a Ten, after Bo Derek. She doesn't look anything like Bo Derek," Bunny Meister said. "She ran 43 times and won around \$40,000."

Bunny might see a plain brown wrapper, but Bo's pasturemate Magic Weisner sees the sun, moon and stars. Bred, owned and trained by Linda's sister, the late Nancy Alberts, Magic Weisner (Pensioner on Parade, July 2009) became a Maryland legend when he finished second to War Emblem in the 2002 Preakness Stakes-G1 at 46-1. The Maryland-bred son of Maryland-bred champion Ameri

MAGGIE KIMMITT



weirdest thing; like he saw her, she saw him, and it was like they had been something in a previous life.”

Bo’s a Ten’s previous life included four years on the racetrack and three foals. Bred in Florida by Bruce Moriarty, she is by Patton from the Bold Ruckus mare Bodust. Paul Mulvena and John Worsley purchased the bay filly for \$1,800 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s fall yearling sale in 2001.

Trained by Worsley, she never raced outside the Mid-Atlantic, earning checks in maiden, claiming and starter races at Delaware Park, Atlantic City, Penn National, Philadelphia Park and Pimlico. She broke her maiden in her 13th start and went to post 19 times as a 3-year-old in 2003. After four seasons, she retired with stats of 43-3-3-8 and \$40,091 earned.

Purchased privately by Marie Morrison, who breeds and raises a few foals with her husband each year at Dellersbeck Farm in Coatesville, Pa., Bo’s a Ten became a broodmare. Her three foals included two winners, but she’s remembered more for her disposition than her productivity.

“Bo was such a sweet mare as were all her foals,” Morrison said. “She did have a fourth foal but unfortunately it was born dead. I still remember all the trouble my husband and I had that night pulling it out to save Bo.”

Morrison did not breed the mare again, choosing instead to find her a good home.

“She was a Craigslist posting,” Groff said. “I went out to see her and immediately fell in love. I rode her and we just completely clicked. I don’t even think she was \$500—it was a nominal fee, more to ensure she was going to a good home. So I ended up basically adopting her.”

Groff and her trainer, Rae Guthrie, had the mare going well, even jumping some 2-foot-6 to 2-foot-9 courses. But Groff, then in her 40s, had no real interest in competition, preferring to hack out on trails. She learned that the Meisters’ farm afforded plenty of opportunity, so she relocated her mare.

“I’d go to tack her up and take her on a ride with some of the other girls, and I could tell she was not happy about leaving Magic,” Groff said. “So I ended up getting a second horse and riding him.”

When Bunny Meister started thinking about selling the property, Magic Weisner’s future always came up—as did that of Bo’s a Ten.

“If you don’t mind,” he told Groff, “I’ll take Bo.”

“Well, yeah,” Groff replied. “I certainly don’t want them to not be together.”

Bunny wondered if Old Friends, the Thoroughbred retirement farm run by Michael Blowen in Kentucky, would be a suitable home for Magic Weisner.

“We told a friend of ours who was in a lot of Cot Campbell’s partnerships, and he had met Michael Blowen a few times,” Bunny said. “So somehow just within the conversation, our friend picked up the ball and called Michael up, and he was very enthusiastic.”

Linda Meister followed up with her own call to Blowen. After explaining the situation with Magic and Bo, Blowen responded with, “Send them both down.” Their future decided, Bo’s a Ten and Magic Weisner will ship to Kentucky this summer. Hollywood couldn’t have scripted a happier ending.

“We’ve got them in the right place,” Bunny Meister smiled. ✱



## Renewal

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TOD MARKS

## New reality should force cooperation

**E**rich Zimny could barely contain himself. The thought of Charles Town Races, where he is the vice president of racing and sports operations, being the only pari-mutuel wagering option in the United States on Thursday, May 14 provoked pure glee, giddiness even.

“What do you think our number will be?” he asked of the potential handle on the nine-race card. “We will be the only signal that night. There’s a small crossover at the end of the Golden Gate Fields card and the beginning of our card for a race or two, but that’s it. That will be interesting.”

And potentially game changing.

As the racing world (and the rest of the world) took steps to restart from the coronavirus pandemic and its accompanying economic downshifting, opportunities like the one in front of Charles Town for its first live card since March 21 arrived. An otherwise small West Virginia track would get its moment to shine. Horsemen, desperate for a place to run, responded with full fields.

Horseplayers more than did their part.

Bettors wagered \$4,330,203 on that racing program, dwarfing the \$1,273,257 bet on the corresponding date (May 16) in 2019 and setting a record for a non-Charles Town Classic card. It was the fifth-highest handle figure in the track’s history, trailing only the Charles Town Classic programs of 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2019.

Call it proof that gamblers will gamble even during a global health crisis. National economic indicators released by Equibase in April showed handle on racing in the United States down 24 percent from the same month in 2019. Rarely is a 24-percent decrease good news, but look more closely. Live racing days in the country decreased 73 percent—from 311 to 85. Average handle per race day increased 177 percent—from \$2.7 million per day to \$7.5 million.

The impact is clear. Racing needs fewer days of live racing especially in a region as crowded as the Mid-Atlantic.

Sorry, yeah, I know owners, trainers and breeders may disagree with this assessment. “Don’t take away our opportunities to run . . . It’s hard enough to win races now . . . Smaller fields make it easier for us to stay in business. . . We need year-round racing in our state to survive.”

You finished? I accept all those points, but consider the rest of the story.

In addition to those handle numbers above, the pandemic exposed racing’s fragile business model of counting on slots revenue to produce purse money and breeding incentives, because if casinos are closed racetracks can’t stay open for long either. Racing deserves the casino funding, and has largely spent it wisely to preserve jobs, farms and a historic, far-reaching industry, but that money will continue to be targeted by politicians and citizens who think it should go elsewhere.

You want to keep slots revenue? Prove you deserve it. Be more sustainable and independent. Raise your own money too.

Higher handle per track and per race should be a big part of that, and the

coronavirus outbreak proves it’s possible. Fonner Park and Will Rogers Downs, tiny tracks in Nebraska and Oklahoma respectively, thrived in the new reality—setting handle records, attracting new participation from horsemen and adding racing dates. Of course, that will only work for a while as more tracks coming on line and racing on the same days dilute the success—spreading wagering dollars, horses, attention.

Zimny was excited about Charles Town’s moment in the sun (OK, lights), but was also realistic. California and Kentucky racing were about to return. Maryland wasn’t far behind. Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Indiana, Virginia and the rest were making plans to restart. And people would bet on all of them.

“The pie is the pie, right?” Zimny said of national handle. “People might bet a little less based on the product, but the amount of money wagered is the amount of money wagered. The more we can share that, the better it is for all of us. We’ve only lost 24 percent of it, when almost all of the tracks were shut down. That shows the customers will support the product.”

But can racing share the customers? That’s the question.

There is no good news in a pandemic, but maybe the clean slate provided by all the closed tracks—and the revenue uncertainty of no on-track customers and closed casinos—can spur more cooperation. Some tracks were considering fewer days per week and shorter meets because fewer horses were available on site and purse accounts wouldn’t replenish as quickly without slots. That’s a good move. In April, Fonner and Will Rogers raced on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Gulfstream and Oaklawn Park took Thursday through Sunday. Tampa went Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Obviously, racing needs more than five tracks to sustain itself but cooperation—especially in this region—will help everyone.





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# ***Springing Forward***

States, tracks aim to press restart on racing

By Joe Clancy



JERRY DZIERWINSKI



**A**ctive racetracks in pockets of the country—Florida, Arkansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma—kept Mid-Atlantic horsemen, tracks and associations looking to the future as the coronavirus pandemic played out in March, April and May.

West Virginia's Charles Town Races returned first, with the region's first live card in nearly eight weeks Thursday, May 14. The return followed the April 30 announcement by Gov. Jim Justice permitting the resumption of racing without spectators and with various safety protocols in place.

"We couldn't be happier to resume live racing here at Charles Town and do it in what we believe to be a safe environment," said Erich Zimny, Charles Town's vice president of racing and sports operations via a press statement. "Thank you to the Governor's office and West Virginia

Racing Commission for working with the stakeholders to make it reality."

Beyond the statement, Zimny was joyous at a chance to get the track running—for horsemen, staff, bettors, everybody.

"Everyone wants to feel as normal as they can in this environment," he said via

telephone May 12. "To bring back racing, which is a big part of people's lives, it feels great."

Like much of the country, West Virginia saw a peak of coronavirus statistics in March/April and a gradual decrease or plateauing into May. Of the region's states with live racing, West Virginia's numbers were the most promising with by far the fewest cases (1,434) and deaths (62) through May 15 according to a *New York Times* database. A metric showing rates of infections and deaths per 100,000 people also put the state in a position to begin easing restrictions. Though also trending in the right direction, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia were higher in those cat-





# Preakness 2020 moved to October, four weeks after Derby



## PREAKNESS 145

**P**imlico Race Course in October? Why not? With most of the racing world turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic, dates for the 2020 Triple Crown races certainly fit in the script.

And, for the first time in history, the Preakness Stakes will be run in the fall.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and 1/ST chairman and president Belinda Stronach announced that the state's biggest sporting event would take place at the historic Baltimore track Saturday, Oct. 3.

The decision came on May 16, the original date of the 145th Preakness, on NBC Sports' broadcast of "The Middle

Jewel: American Pharoah's Run to the Triple Crown." The Oct. 3 racing day will not include the infield music festival, but organizers are hopeful of allowing spectators to attend. Since March, racing has been limited to a few tracks and held without spectators. Several states returned to live racing in May, but with no fans in attendance and with essential personnel only. Details for Black Eyed Susan Day (traditionally the day before the Preakness) had also yet to be finalized.

The new Preakness date comes four weeks after the 2020 Kentucky Derby-G1, which will be run at Churchill Downs in Kentucky Saturday, Sept. 5. As of May 18, the New York Racing Association had yet to announce a new date for the Belmont Stakes-G1, traditionally the third jewel of the Triple Crown.

This will be the first Preakness not held in May since 1945, when all three Triple Crown races were run in June due to World War II.

"Under normal circumstances, I would have stood today at Pimlico Race Course with Ms. Stronach to present the Woodlawn Vase to the winner of the 145th Preakness Stakes. But, as we all know, these are not ordinary circumstances," said Hogan via a statement announcing the date. "I am delighted that we were successful in working with 1/ST, the Maryland Jockey Club and all who are connected to Maryland's Thoroughbred racing industry to set the new date of Oct. 3."

"We all wish we could have been together today to celebrate the Preakness but we stayed home and stayed safe and now we can look forward to Preakness 145 on Oct. 3," said Stronach. "I would like to thank Gov. Hogan and all of the state and local leaders along with our industry stakeholders, racetrack communities and partners, including our broadcast partner NBC Sports, for the ongoing support and commitment to racing in Maryland."

NBC Sports will air a live broadcast of Preakness 145 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

egories and behind West Virginia in terms of opening racetracks.

Beyond that data, safety protocols put in place by racing organizations (the NTRA and national HBPA published lists of best practices) and implemented by Charles Town and Mountaineer Park helped make the case for allowing live racing to return, as did examples set by the tracks hosting live racing in such a way.

"We worked with the horsemen here and folks at Mountaineer to develop protocols and policies to allow them to sign off on us to get live," said Zimny. "Once they were comfortable with the protocols, they made live racing a part of the governor's reopening plan. There was a template for how it could be done. Those tracks did it by and large without any incident and with solid business results. It gave us some comfort internally that we could do it both logistically and from a business standpoint."

Hopeful for strong handle numbers (as seen at the tracks racing in April and early May) Charles Town returned with the same three-days-a-week schedule and the purse structure in place when racing stopped in March. Horsemen responded by filling a nine-race card on Opening Night.

As for which state would follow West Virginia's lead, and when, that was a bet nobody wanted to book in mid-May though there were plenty of Zoom meetings and conference calls.

Maryland's Laurel Park published a 15-day condition book, with no race dates, but was on the verge of a potential return as long as state and local guidelines continued to be eased. In Pennsylvania, Parx Racing and Penn National were on hold, awaiting the loosening of state regulations, some interpretation of Gov. Tom Wolf's county-by-county restart system and the decisions of track owners. Across the state in Erie, Presque Isle Downs appeared closer to opening its stable area and potentially racing in June. Delaware Park's stable area was open, with a tentative start date of June 17 pending an announcement from the state racing commission. New Jersey's Monmouth Park targeted a July 3 return, two months later than the original date. Virginia's Colonial Downs stuck with its opening day of July 23.

In each regional racing state, casinos, sports betting and off-track wagering facilities—which fuel purse accounts and breeding incentives—were closed and all return-

to-racing plans for the moment involved no spectators.

All were also open to adjustments based on health statistics and rules set by local, state and federal health experts and regulators. The various moving parts would impact track purse accounts, state breeding programs and the Thoroughbred economy as a whole.

And yet, hope still percolated in May as foaling season eyed its homestretch, trainers prepped 2-year-olds for their debuts and racetracks anticipated a chance to come back to life.

"From the breeding and the horsemen's side, we're in this together," said Brian Sanfratello, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association. "We're just waiting for the governor to give the OK either for resuming racing on a statewide level or to go by his color code (red-yellow-green) that he's doing and if we go by that I'm guessing some racetracks will open before others."

"It can work, it's just a matter of managing it," said Bessie Gruwell, executive director of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "Gulfstream, Tampa, Oaklawn, Fonner, Will Rogers [tracks that



didn't stop racing, but adjusted to no spectators and with safety protocols] have shown it can work and we're prepared to make it work too."

In Maryland, most conversation centered on a new date for the Preakness Stakes—potentially Oct. 3 but also potentially in July or August. More important to the state's horsemen, however, was a return to live racing at Laurel Park. On May 15, Phase 1 of a tiered return to business took effect in the state (pending local approval). Live horse racing with no spectators was to be included, though questions centered on a rule prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more people and Laurel remained closed for racing. Horsemen were hopeful of a resolution, and a return to racing in May. A purse account balance of \$3.4 million combined with expected wagering revenue would permit racing two days a week (perhaps more during opening weekend) and get horsemen through that 15-day condition book.

Trainer Tim Keefe, president of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, said no changes were to be made to those first 15 days in terms of purse structure and other financial commitments.

"We talked about ways to save money and whether it was purses, owner bonuses for Maryland-breds or paying back to last place, it made more sense to leave it alone," Keefe said. "Fields are going to be big, even if we're limited to Maryland horses. We just wanted to get as much money as we could back into the hands of owners and trainers."

## RACING UPDATES

Regional racetracks and potential timetables for a return after coronavirus cancellations (all dates tentative, check local sources for current details):

**Charles Town.** West Virginia track returned to racing May 14, the first regional track to run after all halted live racing in March. No spectators. Stable area closed to outside horses, trainers and staff. Local jockeys only.

**Colonial Downs.** Virginia track on target to start 2020 meeting as scheduled July 23 for 18 live days through Aug. 29.

**Delaware Park.** Live racing set for June 17 through Oct. 17 for 65 days, with the possibility of extra days pending announcement by racing commission and guidelines from health officials. Purses, stakes schedule and other details under consideration. Stable area restricted to essential personnel.

**Laurel Park.** Though reopening date had yet to be determined, Maryland Jockey Club released a spring condition book covering 15 days pending the easing of statewide health/safety rules and local approval. Potential for return before June 1.

**Monmouth Park.** New Jersey track pushed opening to July 3 (from May 2) and scheduled 36 days (instead of 56) with stable area expected to open June 1. Meadowlands Thoroughbred days cut from 19 to 15, with potential move to Monmouth. Haskell Stakes-G1 is July 18, with the United Nations-G1 added to the card.

**National Steeplechase Association:** Two meets in Virginia, Middleburg Spring and Virginia Gold Cup with new dates of June 13 and 27 respectively. No spectators, and other limitations. Awaiting state feedback.

**Parx Racing:** Stable area open for training, but no specific timetable for a return to racing. Awaiting the easing of rules from state political leaders and health officials.

**Penn National.** Stable area open for training, but no specific timetable for a return to racing. Awaiting the easing of rules from state political leaders and health officials. Penn Mile-G2, Penn Oaks, Pennsylvania Governor's Cup and the new 7 Forty 3 Stakes canceled for 2020.

**Presque Isle Downs.** Opening day delayed until June 21 with stable area opening June 1, though two-week delays to each were in play depending on health guidelines.

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*A post parade—finally. The field for the first Mid-Atlantic race in two months steps on to the track at Charles Town May 14.*

Beyond the first condition book, racing would depend on wagering handle and the possibility of casinos reopening.

“It’s tricky,” Keefe said. “We’re anticipating the handle to be better, we just don’t know how much better so we can’t project what our purse account is going to look like.”

New Jersey’s Thoroughbred meet at Monmouth Park will be considerably shorter this year (starting July 3 instead of May 2), but the plan called for strong daily purses and a potential for more dates shifting over from the Meadowlands.

Despite the uncertainty, New Jersey breeding was in the midst of a mini boom as the 2020 foal crop will likely be the state’s highest since 2015.

“We were only at 65 or so, but it’s a good sign when you’re up about 30 percent,” said Mike Campbell, Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association of New Jersey’s executive director, of the 90 foals expected. “I think people saw what was happening with the stakes schedule, the incentives and the purses last year. That’s a positive, and the increase has to do with people who foaled their mares here for a long time but left to foal in Pennsylvania and Maryland. They’re bringing mares back to New Jersey now. A lot of people breed to race in New Jersey, and that’s a strength in some ways.”

Campbell said the cut in live racing days, and the closing of off-track wagering facili-

ties will hurt but that the mechanism for funding was fairly firm for 2020.

“We came in with some money in reserve which will help us distribute the awards once racing starts again,” he said. “The only way to bet is through an account-wagering platform so we’re going to take a hit, but we haven’t seen the numbers and we will have a better idea once Monmouth runs. Then we might have to change the model a little bit.”

Funding was a question for most states around the region as revenue from slots and other forms of gambling stopped along with live racing when states enacted stay-at-home orders and bans on large gatherings. With college and professional sports halted and casinos closed, much was made about racing’s position as the only gambling option (at the handful of tracks still running), but advanced-deposit platforms contribute less revenue to purse accounts and breeding incentives than wagering on-track or at off-track betting facilities.

Nationwide, handle decreased just 24 percent in April (compared to 2019) despite almost 73 percent fewer racing days.

“That’s crazy when you think about it, and encouraging,” said Zimny. “With five tracks racing? It gives me confidence for the coming weeks. We’ve sunk our marketing and production dollars into our export signal. The bigger thing for our purse fund is when the gaming activity starts up again. If that’s down for a while, it’s going to have an impact on us.”

Seasonal tracks such as Monmouth, Delaware, Presque Isle and Colonial might be in a slightly better position to maintain purse levels for shorter meets though the region expected to adjust stakes programs, potentially trim the live schedule and enact other cost-cutting measures.

“We’ve got plenty of money to pay out certified bonuses,” said Gruwell, about Delaware. “We’ll try to take a look at our stakes schedule, we’ll have to. Racing is very lucky and fortunate that we’re able to run spectator free racing and have revenue come in from handle. The bad thing is we’re getting a very small portion of that, a smaller portion than we would get normally.”

Gruwell said Delaware was poised for a big meet, and still may succeed as an early regional track with an open stable area and a racing plan. For months, the stable area has operated under safety protocols with temperature checks, social-distancing, set stable-gate hours, restricted access and an identification system. Trainers and personnel shipping in must come from a facility with similar rules in place.

“People thought it was an unreasonable thing to do in March,” said Gruwell of the various measures in place. “Now, everybody just does it. We’ve got a lot of interest from horsemen. They’re not sure what it’s going to look like in Kentucky, some Oaklawn guys are coming and people are wondering about the other tracks in the region. A lot can change in five weeks, but we’re optimistic.”



# *Uncertain Times*

Regional breeding farms adjust to changes, declines during pandemic

By Tom Law

**S**pringtime always brings plenty of uncertainty and widespread optimism.

The coronavirus pandemic didn't change that part of the lives of people who make a living on the small, medium and large Thoroughbred breeding operations in the Mid-Atlantic region. The dichotomy of those two traits are always present while the first quarter of the year folds into the second and in 2020 they're interspersed with splashes of doubt, fear and depression offset by strength, collaboration and hope.

Mike Pons tends to look toward the latter string.

The co-owner of Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md., with his brother Josh, Pons chooses to be optimistic, hopeful and thankful amidst the crisis that cost more than 80,000 American lives through mid-May. Looking out over a field of mares and foals at Country Life one day this spring provided Pons reason enough for those feelings.

"I can feel the tension . . . you can almost see it," Pons said. "But I look around at all these blessings. We're out on a farm and we're not confined to a house . . . I've got Mosler, a first-crop stallion by War Front who has a terrific group of 2-year-olds out there. I can't wait to see those guys hit the racetracks. I think he's going to be a real star.

"There are a lot of positives that get overshadowed in all this. You turn the news on and you want to jump off a bridge. If you can get away from it for five

minutes, get some fresh air, walk around a little bit and appreciate the good things we have in this game. One thing about horse people, we know how to take a punch. It's hard to land one but we can take a few when we have to. As long as you don't get knocked cold you're good."

Many farms are attempting to do just that, avoid being knocked down or out and dealing with a downturn or the possibility of widespread declines in business amidst the uncertainty.

The country's equine operations, including those in the Mid-Atlantic, have continued to operate during the crisis after being deemed essential by state and federal authorities. Life on the farm and in the country undoubtedly makes physical distancing easier but the end of the first quarter and start to the second of 2020 seemed far from business as usual.

Pons said Country Life did not see a significant decrease in business several weeks into the pandemic. He was initially worried about a client whose primary business focuses on hotels, restaurants and bars—which were shut down in March—understandably not having the cash to pay bills but said they were "soldiering on, trying to work the short term to get to the long term."

Northview Stallion Station also didn't see a decline in visits to the six stallions at its Chesapeake City, Md., facility as the pandemic took hold and the country shut down. Many farms, including Northview, took steps that followed state and federal guidelines to prohibit visitors and take extra precautions for physical distancing, washing and disinfecting.

David Wade, Northview's general manager and director of sales, said he was pleased with continued business but also looked ahead to when the crisis backs off.

"It's going to be interesting to see how everything gets phased back," Wade said. "I personally believe that casinos will be one of the last things to open back up. You can't practice social distancing, you can't do the disinfecting. It's going to be difficult to conduct racing without the purse money and breeder bonus money that comes from the casinos.

"We'll see. The sales obviously are going to be really hurt, so many 2-year-old sales have been canceled. There's not going to





*Foaling season at Country Life Farm and others carried on during the global health crisis.*

be a marketplace for a lot of these 2-year-olds. A lot of our sales are pinhook-driven. The pinhookers have already put a lot more money into keeping the 2-year-olds for a lot longer than they normally would. They're strained and are not going to have the cash to buy yearlings this year like they normally do. It's going to be interesting."

Unrelated to the global health crisis, Northview announced in mid-May plans to close its Pennsylvania division, sell the property and consolidate operations in Maryland. The 180-acre farm in Peach Bottom opened in 2009 and over the years stood regional leaders Jump Start and El Padrino among others. Hoppertunity, Peace and Justice, Uncle Lino and Medallist (one of the Pennsylvania division's original stallions) stood at Northview PA in 2020; the stallions will relocate to the Maryland division by Nov. 30, or sooner if the property is sold.

Other farm owners or representatives contacted in mid-May said they did experience a noticeable decline in the number of mares coming to be bred, many at about a 20- to 30-percent drop.

"People are cutting back, not breeding their mares this year," said Glenn Brok, who owns and operates Diamond B Farm in Mohrsville, Pa., with his wife Becky.

"Some people have decided to take their mares home and not breed them back. It's definitely having an effect. I'm sure we're off 20 percent at least, maybe more. Probably 30 percent. But we're going forward. If it was easy everybody would do it, you know?"

Diamond B stands six stallions, including the sire of 2019 champion 2-year-old filly British Idiom in Flashback and three others that ranked among the Keystone State's leading sires in 2019.

Brok said he wasn't surprised at the declines considering the pandemic's continued effect on the economy and without any plans to restart racing in Pennsylvania after the state's three Thoroughbred and three Standardbred tracks closed March 16.

"I don't think anybody knows what's going to happen," Brok said. "They say that the areas that are more populous will be longer getting started again because there are a higher number of cases in those areas. Then places like Erie (home to Presque Isle Downs) and Penn National, which are farther out, they feel there are less cases there and they might be able to reopen."

Rodney Eckenrode, who operates Equistar in Annville, Pa., near Penn National Race Course, expected a bit of a decline in

business in 2020 even before the Covid-19 crisis gripped the country. He stands five stallions at Equistar, including the now 19-year-old champion and dual classic winner Smarty Jones.

"I figured after Gov. [Tom] Wolf's deal we would be off 20 to 30 percent this year," Eckenrode said, referring to Wolf's announcement in early March to take more than \$200 million from a fund used for breeders' incentive and purses to pay for a new college scholarship plan. "I've got to tell you with this Covid going on so long a lot of people aren't breeding this year."

Eckenrode pointed to two factors—the coronavirus outbreak and its attendant economic uncertainty and the instability of the slots subsidy floated by Wolf.

"The fact they're going to make noises about potentially cutting purses in half, I've heard from 20 to 50 percent, when they start running again," Eckenrode said. "Sal DeBunda [president of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association] said he heard they might have to cut purses by 50 percent [at Parx Racing]. They run for a much more inflated purse than we do here at Penn National. Of course everybody is always in hopes of getting to that winner's circle to bail them out most of the time."



Eckenrode hoped to breed around 100 mares at the farm in 2020 and even though they've surpassed 50 he doesn't expect to hit triple digits. The farm has seen steady and sustained business from his main clients but a drop from the one- and two-horse owners who are "just afraid to make the investment."

"One of my clients, Ron Lombardi, he's a big player in this deal," Eckenrode said of the owner of Mr. Amore Stables that owns Poseidon's Warrior, who stands at Equistar for \$5,000. "He's going to wind up breeding eight [mares] to Poseidon. He's going forward with it."

Eckenrode also draws optimism from the support of Texans Jeff and Stacy Jeans, who stand Airoforce and Uncle Vinny, and fellow Pennsylvanian Pat Chapman, who stands Smarty Jones.

"The guy that owns Airoforce and Uncle Vinny, you wouldn't even know that we were having any trouble in the country," he said. "That guy is so upbeat and optimistic going forward, he just can't get enough. Mrs. Chapman, she's trying to get all her mares back in foal. I think she has six mares left but a lot of her mares are getting up in age, too."

Eckenrode's wife Sharon deals with Crohn's Disease and they've adjusted some hands-on practices at the farm to eliminate direct contact with outside clients.

"What we've done with most people is we've asked them to stay out by their truck and trailer for breedings and stuff," Eckenrode said. "Most of the time when mares ship in I grab them or my help will grab them, take them from the trailer originally. We're here 24-7 so our life hasn't changed that much."

"I don't think anybody ever thought we'd deal with something like this in our lifetime. We're getting through it OK. There are some good people that are still breeding but you'd always like to do more. The people you're seeing back off are folks that probably shouldn't be doing this but they can't help themselves and do it anyway, then struggle to pay you in the end. Those people aren't doing anything now. The ones that can afford it are still going forward. They may back off on one or two mares."

Louis Merryman, who owns and operates Anchor and Hope Farm in Port Deposit, Md., with his wife Grace, offered differing opinions on the situation. He called it both depressing—thanks largely to changes in bonus structures in neighboring Pennsylvania—and promising—thanks to a Maryland Senate bill to redevelop Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park and other

measures being passed without Gov. Larry Hogan's signature.

"It's a longer story than just the Covid situation," Merryman said. "Six years ago Pennsylvania changed their bonus structure. When they did that it hurt the stallion farms, specifically on stud fee income pretty dramatically. It hurt me. At the time I was managing the books on two stallions, somewhere combined they had around \$200,000 in contracts and after slips and losses somewhere around \$150,000. Pennsylvania changed their bonus structure and from then on our total stud fee income has been in the realm of \$30,000 or \$40,000."

Breeders' bonuses helped Anchor and Hope earn more than \$100,000 last year. Merryman acknowledged the difficulty of the stallion business but "stayed small and lean, watched our overhead and had faith in our stallions."

Merryman is bullish on Anchor and Hope's five-member stallion roster, which includes Grade 1 winner Imagining, Grade 2 winner Bourbon Courage and A.P. Indy's Grade 1-placed son Long River.

"I love everything we have on the ground and feel like if they get a shot they'll prove themselves, but it's our responsibility to get us financially from here to there," Merryman said. "The breeders' bonuses, if you own a farm you're not getting rich on \$100,000 in income. However it does help pay the bills so now we've lost 75 percent of stud fee income and then after that we have lost the bonus income, and our clients have also lost their income. I've taken three phone calls today from people that have horses in their possession that are owned by breeders that owe us money and stud fee income and have asked us to release the stallion certs and forgive the bills so they can try and sell the horses and recoup some of their money."

"It's pretty bleak. That being said I'm fairly stubborn and my wife and I, every waking moment in the past month or five weeks has been spent reworking things so we can ensure our breeding shed stays open for the next couple years."

The main barn at Anchor and Hope burned to the ground in August 2019. No horses were lost in the blaze but the Merrymans endured a rough fall trying to sell yearlings privately instead of at the sales. They sold three of 10 and also needed to tap into reserves for other projects to rebuild the main barn after insurance funds didn't cover the balance.

The Merrymans still went into 2020 fairly optimistic, with an expected uptick in foaling business thanks to picking up a few

multi-mare clients. Another client added mares and some breeders in Maryland booked mares to Anchor and Hope stallions.

"There are some things that I remain optimistic about but also being completely realistic we have a very, very tough two years to get through," Merryman said. "Am I saying that I think in two years everything is going to be rosy? I don't know that. I hope so. I'm not banking on it but our goal is to just get aggressive where we are spending money, where we can save money, where we can generate more income inside or outside of this industry to ensure that our breeding shed remains open and follow these stallions through in hopes that we have some brighter days two years down the line."

Randy Funkhouser sees reason for optimism in West Virginia despite some setbacks caused in recent years that cut purses, eliminated some breeders' bonuses and of course the shutdowns in the state due to the coronavirus.

Funkhouser, whose family has been involved in the state's Thoroughbred business for four generations more than 80 years through its O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town, said the return of racing at Charles Town Races May 14 provided a significant boost after some difficult times in March and April.

"When they closed it down it was devastating," Funkhouser said. "They closed the casino, the racetrack. Here are people that aren't high earners or rich people that suddenly face not having any purses to run for. It's been very, very hard on the backside people, the trainers, for us, the owners. When you don't have any income for 50, 60 days it really sets you back. That's part of our operation. We breed horses, board mares, board horses for other people, we raise horses, we sell horses, we race horses. Not having any racing certainly has affected us."

Funkhouser expects the number of mares bred to the farm's eight stallions that include Limehouse, Our Entourage and Swiss Yodeler, three of the top 10 sires in West Virginia in 2019, to be similar to last year. He also expects the number of foals born at the farm to be around 100.

"That's not a bad year for us but we've had better," he said. "Other than that I don't see a lot of effect here. We put in some protocols, people wearing masks coming into the office, that sort of thing. And thank god none of our help has been sick or anything like that. We're pretty isolated out here to a certain degree." ★







# Big Luv

## *Stable star Runnin'toluvya pushes West Virginia trainer Grams toward new heights*

*By Katie Bo Williams. Photographs by Katherine Turnbull*

When Tim Grams first saw Runnin'toluvya as a weanling in 2014, the West Virginia trainer didn't exactly think of Holy Bull, Silver Charm or some other gray superstar. But there was something there. Grams remembers a nice-looking colt, correct and raw-boned—the sort of horse who improves with age.

But Grams, 56, knew he had something special when he started to break the horse.

“Because for about 30 days he tried to break me,” the trainer said with a laugh.

Grams and his wife Judy break their horses on a 100-acre facility in Ranson, W.Va., where Grams has an indoor arena and a starting gate he can use before he sends his young horses to his stable at nearby Charles Town. He was working the horse in a round pen inside the indoor arena. Every day, he would come inside and Judy would ask: “How's the gray colt doing?” Grams would answer: “Not so good.”

“I was stealing rides on him for a while. I could get on him and ride him around, but we weren't really getting much done,” Grams said. “He was so athletic and so strong, he gave you feelings of . . . you didn't know if you could ride him if he really blew up.”

Then one day, the colt ran Grams' knee into the gate on the round pen. It was just enough to arouse Grams' temper—and give him the courage to fight back a little bit.

“After two or three wild jumps, he got to riding pretty good,” said Grams, who told a farm worker to open the gate on the round pen to further extend the work.



“He opened the gate and I rode him out of that arena after about five minutes,” Grams said. “The rest is kind of history.”

Runnin'toluvya went from barely rideable in a round pen to making history. The 6-year-old son of top West Virginia stallion Fiber Sonde is edging close to \$1 million in earnings, including wins in the 2019

\$1 million Charles Town Classic-G2 and the 2018 West Virginia Breeders Classic. The gray gelding had won 14 of 21 lifetime starts through May 15, with earnings of \$971,881. Like all of racing, he was derailed by the coronavirus as this year's Charles Town Classic was postponed from its original date of April 18 with no make-up date set.

Runnin'toluvya looked poised to defend his title, coming off a five-month layoff to win an allowance race—essentially an open race for West Virginia-breds—March 21. Racing was halted after that card, and it's been a holding pattern. Grams played it smart.

“We backed off, just a little bit,” said the trainer. “We gallop him a little, jog him some, we've worked him once. We keep mixing it up because he gets bored and you've got to keep him interested.”

Bred by Leslie Cromer and purchased privately as a yearling, Runnin'toluvya is used to waiting. After winning two of five starts as a juvenile, he missed his 3-year-old season while recovering from surgery on a sesamoid after getting injured in his final start at 2.

“We gave him quite a bit of time after that, and started training him again and I just didn't like the way he was training,” Grams said. “He needed to be turned out, but it was hard for me to do that after the surgery. I didn't know if my heart could stand watching him run across a field with a couple of screws in his leg.”

Grams got over it, Runnin'toluvya got his turnout time and farm life agreed with him, because he lost just once (a second) in nine starts in 2018 and carried that suc-





*Judy and Tim Grams with Ristretta and her 2019 New Year's Day colt last summer.*

cess into the blockbuster 2019—a prep win in late March, the \$564,000 Charles Town Classic payday in April and an allowance score in May. The campaign ended with three consecutive losses, including a 10th of 10 in the Breeders Classic, but Grams thinks he's got that figured out.

“To train for months and months and months and not get much opportunity to run is hard,” Grams said. “He was at the racetrack too long and just got sour.”

Grams ponies the horse to the gate—because despite being gelded, he is still a horse that “if you kind of keep control of him the whole time, your chances of being successful are a lot better,” Grams said.

All of that makes Runnin'toluvya a good poster child for Grams' do-it-yourself operation. With up to 40 horses at Charles Town at any given moment and 15 broodmares at the farm, plus the weanlings and the breakers, Tim and Judy Grams do almost everything themselves—and for themselves. Over half of his horses in training are his own, and all but one of the broodmares. Grams does his own foaling, breaking and riding at the farm, only occasionally hiring help. Judy handles the books and helps out with the broodmares. (Judy, Grams notes, is the one who keeps track of the details that he is often too distracted to remember.)

“I know he's there every day,” said owner Cliel Albrite, who has had as many as 10 horses with Grams. “He's not one of these guys that takes off two or three days a week.”

Between the two of them, Tim and Judy Grams have done it all. Judy galloped horses, won 14 races as a jockey in 1990 and then trained a few herself before meeting Tim. He started out breaking babies, outriding and working the starting gate.

Grams grew up with pleasure horses. He got his start at 24 after quitting a job at a roofing supply company when Bill Downing gave him a job breaking 2-year-olds in Keedysville, Md., in Washington County near the West Virginia border. Downing got him a job as an assistant starter at Laurel Park, which after four years led to a job as an outrider. It was there that he met Judy, then galloping horses. At first, she refused to speak to him when he rode past and said good morning. “Would not say one word to me,” he said.

“When I saw her on the track one day, I just made my mind up: one of these days we're going to be together,” he recalled. “Maybe after a year or so she started saying ‘Hi’ some. I wore her down. I said don't fight it, I'm not going anywhere.”

They have been together since 2001.

While he was still an outrider, Grams bought his first mare and then a few babies to set up his own shop. He ran his first horse in October 1996, Devil's Cape, for breeder/owner Tex Mullins. The West Virginia-bred became the trainer's first winner in December and was soon joined by half-sister Shes a Caper Too, who eventually won a dozen races and logged close to \$300,000 in earnings.

“I got lucky right off, I had a couple that could run,” Grams said, whose runners finished in the top three in 11 of their first 12 starts at the beginning of his career. “Makes you think the thing is easy—I was just lucky. Hell, I didn't know what I was doing.”

Tim and Judy bought the farm in Ranson from Mullins, at first a 27-acre parcel that the Gramses have since added to. And they've seen success. Tim's horses won 19 races in 2001 and have topped 20 every year since. The victory total has been above

50 since 2015 with more than \$1 million purse earnings the last four seasons.

Grams was the second leading trainer at Charles Town in 2019 and number three the year before that. His lifetime earnings are edging close to \$16 million, with 778 wins through mid-May.

“Everybody wants a stake horse, and everybody wants allowance horses, and we seem to have been lucky enough to win a lot of races together and not win at the bottom,” said Albrite, who has been with Grams for more than a decade. “Tim has had very good luck with both owners and himself and I think has done very well.”

Albrite homebred C R Case's Legacy has won six races and placed in three stakes from 16 starts since making her debut in November 2018. The 4-year-old daughter of Fiber Sonde finished fifth in her 2020 debut in February.

Before Runnin'toluvya, the stable star was Moonlit Song, a homebred daughter of Fiber Sonde and the Parker's Storm Cat mare Malibu Kitten. Grams claimed the latter for \$8,000 in 2010, won five races with her and has thus far gotten three winners out of her. Her second foal to race, Moonlit Song won the West Virginia “Cavada” Breeders Classic in 2017 and came within a half-length of repeating the victory in 2018. She returned to win an allowance in early 2019 and was retired to the broodmare band with earnings of \$404,840. Her foal of 2020 died, and she was since bred to Great Notion.

“That's sad whenever it happens, but we're not giving up on her,” said Grams. “On the positive side, we've got 10 babies here and they're all doing well.”

Though racing has been limited, Grams has won nine races this year including two by Moonlit Song's half-sister (by Nicanor) Malibu Splash and one from half-brother (by Copelan Too) Moonlit Night. Grams has a few others he's excited about—but was hesitant to name for fear of jinxing fragile hope, though he did mention a 2-year-old full-sister to Moonlit Song.

All of it—the breeding, the racing, the work on the farm and at the track, even the superstitions—fueled the future.

“In this business, you've got to have your own horses if you really want to get something put away and have a chance to grow,” Grams said. “When you watch the news at night it can look pretty gloomy, but when you turn the babies out and they're running in the green grass with their moms, it does something for you.”



*With additional reporting by Joe Clancy.*



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# Bouncing Back

*After fire, Crane tries to look ahead to sales season*

*By Joe Clancy*

The running joke between Joanna and Clovis Crane went something like: “We don’t go out. We don’t socialize much. We don’t eat in a lot of restaurants. Our idea of entertainment is going to a saddle-horse auction . . . You know, neither one of us has any friends.”

The Cranes, who own and operate Crane Thoroughbreds in Lebanon, Pa., couldn’t have been more wrong.

They found out they have “lots and lots and lots” of friends after a fire destroyed a barn and killed 15 horses in early March. Within days (hours in some cases), bridles, saddles, shanks, halters, hay, feed, blacksmith tools, you name it showed up at the farm from all across the Thoroughbred industry. At 6:45 the morning after the fire, a neighbor drove in with a load of hay. The Cranes had hay, the bulk of it stored in a separate barn, but the good Samaritan wasn’t hearing it. “You’re either going to help me unload it or watch me unload it,” he said. “This is my way of helping.” So Clovis Crane helped unload hay he didn’t really need. The contributions were appreciated, humbling, ultimately necessary and a sign that—in the face of tragedy—everything might turn out OK.

“The outreach from the horse community has been unfathomable,” Clovis Crane said in early May. “People from California, Louisiana, literally a truckload of equipment came from Ocala, the people in Fair Hill sent stuff. People from everywhere sent us some of their own stuff and some went through tack shops and bought new stuff. It’s amazing. The outpouring of support and generosity has been amazing.”

Much of it came from Crane’s competitors in the 2-year-old pinhooking game, adding further depth and meaning to the gestures.

And less than four months later, Crane Thoroughbreds will head to Timonium,



Md., for Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s 2-year-old sale with nine horses. Hopefully. Postponed more than a month due to the coronavirus global health crisis, the sale is scheduled for June 29-30 but was pending the lifting of restrictions on public events in Maryland and other Mid-Atlantic states. In mid-May, Crane was ready and putting the finishing touches on a smaller-than-usual consignment. His fellow consignors from the region and beyond were ready, having seen the cancellation of sales in Florida, Kentucky and California and the

rescheduling of the Midlantic sale twice. Fasig-Tipton was ready, nearing completion of the catalog and assigning hip numbers while also putting in place mechanisms for online bidding and expanded telephone bidding.

“It’s been completely nuts for everybody,” Crane said of prepping 2-year-olds for the sales ring in 2020.

None more so than Crane, whose business model involves buying yearlings (some on his own, some with partners), prepping them on the family’s 65-acre farm and then picking spots to sell them as 2-year-olds. Last year at Timonium, Crane Thoroughbreds sold 18 horses for \$697,000. The year before it was 15 for \$460,500. The numbers won’t go that high this year. All 15 lost in the fire were 2-year-olds destined for the sales ring, but Crane is confident in his group and particularly bullish on colts by Blame and Carpe Diem. Purchased at Keeneland, the bays survived the fire and—even if they can’t say it—appreciated the delayed Timonium schedule.

“Later helps with the nicks and cuts and lumps and bumps, but good horses sell no matter what and whenever,” Crane said. “You have good ones, you can’t hide them. Maybe the later time frame is a good thing for the business. It might be better for all horses to go later.”

At Keeneland September last year, Crane scouted the Carpe Diem colt (Hip 2942) from the consignment of Shelton Sales and was ready to bid when the Blame colt (Hip 2939) walked past.

“Holy crap,” Crane told himself. “I was waiting for the Carpe Diem colt, had short-listed him, done all my work, dah de dah. Lo and behold, here walks this other colt. He’s three hips before the Carpe Diem and





*Crane Thoroughbreds' 2-year-olds by El Padrino (left, with Amara Underwood) and Jump Start (Chris Tejero) turn the corner on the training track in May.*

I started scrambling to get the info on the Blame colt.”

From the consignment of Warrendale Sales, the Blame colt went to Crane and partner Keep The Ball Rollin’ for \$72,000. Three hips later, the partnership spent \$50,000 to get the Carpe Diem.

“The Blame was quite the stretch for me, but I’m really, really thankful I did that, because he might be the best colt I’ve ever had,” Crane said. “They’re both nice colts and I’m excited for them. I’m to the point now where we’ve done the work, let’s get them breezed well, don’t push them, have them happy and healthy at Timonium and we’ll see how we do.”

Left unsaid in that statement is how lucky both colts are—and Crane is—to be even talking about Timonium. The horses were among seven rescued from the fire by Crane, who was in a stall with an eighth when overcome by the smoke.

“She just wouldn’t come out,” Crane said. “But at that point the fire was right in front of her stall. I kind of fell down in the stall, and down that low I could get a little air and breathe. I crawled out to the aisle way and a huge gust of wind gave me enough air to get out.”

The filly died along with 14 others. Crane won’t forget it, can’t forget it. He was in his house on an otherwise quiet

Saturday afternoon, home from a youth wrestling tournament in which son Coy had broken his thumb. Joanna took Coy to the hospital afterward. Clovis was home with daughters Amara, Dalia and Rosey. The family dogs noticed the fire first. Their barks alerted Rosey, who called “Daddy, fire. Daddy, fire.” Crane was there in minutes, opening doors and smashing windows to create airflow and turning horses loose along with 18-year-old Amara. The first four were easy, the next three more of a challenge as Crane got deeper into the fully on-fire barn. Eventually, the smoke could be seen 20 miles away in Hershey.

“I promise you, it’s worse than you can imagine,” Crane said of trying to rescue horses from a barn fire. “The smoke, the screams of the horses, I’ll never forget that. We lost most of our business, but I just think about the horses. You become friends with all of them when you do what we do.”

Crane said an investigation didn’t yield a definitive answer, but the likely cause was a failed electrical outlet. The fire started in the middle of the barn, near a wash stall. A strong wind out of the north saved the horses at that end of the barn, pushed flames toward others. In the end, all that was left was rubble, and a farm full of other horses. Once the fire was out and the investigation concluded, Crane and others

buried the victims, cleared the barn site and tried to look for normal. The search, even on a farm with 45 horses in another barn, might last awhile.

“I’m not OK, the honest truth, I’ve just come to grips with openly saying that, but I’m not OK, I’m hurt,” Crane said. “I’m generally a pretty stoic guy. This brought up a lot and it still does.”

Trainer John Servis has purchased horses from Crane, and also sends some young horses there for early work. When news of the fire came out, Servis immediately felt for his friend.

“I was in one of those situations at Penn National years ago,” Servis said. “It wasn’t my barn, but I was close to it and it’s not an easy thing. My first reaction was I felt horrible for him. This is a business, but you don’t think about the financial part of it. You just think about the horses.”

There’s no bright side, not with dead horses, but the world’s suspended economy and racing’s on-hold schedule might help the Cranes recover. Instead of being at school, the kids are home on the farm, riding ponies and saddle horses through the starting gate with the 2-year-olds and helping with the barn work. The Cranes didn’t have to hustle a consignment to Florida for the Gulfstream sale April 1 and didn’t have to think about taking a load to





*Top row: Amara Underwood puts a Super Saver filly through her paces in the indoor, gallops a Speightstown colt, and finds a peaceful moment with a Palace filly. Middle row: Clovis Crane ponies a Fed Biz filly back to the barn and shows off a Blame colt. Bottom row: Crane and farm pony Empire Road (a Retired Racehorse Project and Real Rider Cup star) keep an eye on things; Crane and his stepdaughter Underwood school the Palace filly in the gate; horses get some turnout time.*

California (which they've done) for that sale. The July yearling sale is canceled, and so is the Saratoga sale so there are no prospects to shop for.

There are, however, horses to train—and that might be the best tonic.

"If I can give anyone any advice on how to recover from something like this, if it ever happens to you and you have to hope it doesn't, go back to training as best

you can," Crane said. "It'll help. The horses will help. We take Sundays off, but Monday after the fire we were in the barn not knowing what to do. I went out and harrowed the track, filled the training chart out. We tacked up, we rode, we did everything like normal for those horses."

"It was the best thing we could have done."

That and count their friends. 





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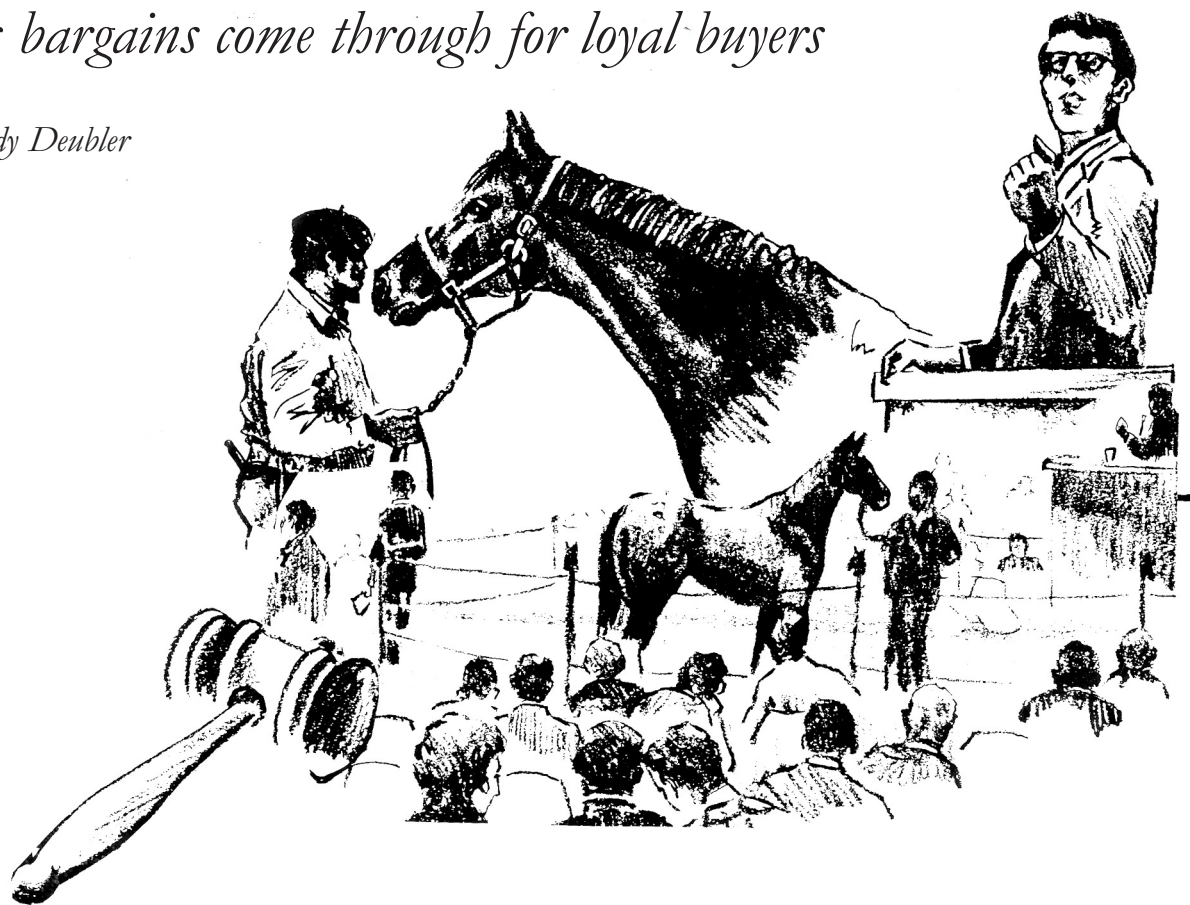
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# Price Points

*Sales bargains come through for loyal buyers*

By Cindy Deubler



**D**isregarded. Sold for \$3,000. A Grade 1 winner of \$1,136,235. Ignored. Sold for \$1,000. Earned \$214,525 in less than a year. Overlooked. Sold for \$2,500. Has raced through age 12 while earning \$536,193.

A Thoroughbred sale is a well-choreographed, rapid-fire thrill ride, and quick to move on to the next horse. But sometimes a horse steps into the ring and nothing happens. No bid . . . one bid? They leave the ring for the price of a new smart phone or a cheap used car. Why take a chance? Is there really any value in the bargain basement?

More than you might think.

Two years ago, at Fasig-Tipton Midland's fall yearling sale, 46 horses sold for \$2,000 or less. Not even a year into their careers, 15 are winners, with average earnings of \$58,141; three are stakes performers, including one of Maryland's top 3-year-olds.

Why did these horses leave the ring with so few numbers on the scoreboard? And why did their buyers take the chance?

"When he gets to the sale, his competitive juices get flowing," said Jeff Matty, racing manager for Joe Besecker, on what spurs the owner to bid on horses at the lowest level. "He looks at the catalog page, and when he sees that the price on the big board is not that much . . . If they are under \$10,000 and Joe Besecker is at the sale, he starts looking at that pedigree more and more."

Besecker says he's guilty as charged. But as part of his team, Matty and Northview Stallion Station's director of bloodstock Paul O'Loughlin, are equally competitive.

Besecker went all out at that 2018 sale, spending \$609,200 for 31 yearlings—seven on bids of \$2,000 or less.

"My goal at the sale was selling some and buying zero," said Besecker. "The only reason I went down there was to look at one horse. As I was sitting and watching the sale, I started to realize this wasn't a really good sale for the mid- to low-end, so I changed my mind and decided I'd buy a 'venture fund' of horses. I had a team there, some really good at looking at conformation, others looking at all the vet reports we could get. We decided if they were going to give stuff away, we'd take advantage of it."

Besecker was the only bidder on two, taking home a Raison d'Etat colt and a Super Ninety Nine filly for \$1,000 apiece.





*Sales bargains Lebda (left) and Limited View turned into regional stakes performers.*

The colt, out of the mare Lenders Way, was named Lebda for friend Doug Lebda, founder of Lending Tree. “He is maybe one of my favorite purchases of all time,” said Besecker. “I just fell in love with the horse. Sometimes you get a connection—this horse walked into the ring and just owned the ring.”

When no one was bidding, Besecker looked at the page and knew nothing about the sire. The team tried to persuade him not to bid. “Sometimes I had to fight my trusted advisors,” he said. “I was going to name him No No No No No.”

Lebda’s trainer Claudio Gonzalez is still amazed.

“I don’t know what he was looking for in the horse, because no one wanted to buy him,” he said. “I didn’t believe it, because he was set to breeze with some horse we paid 50 for and he looked good. That’s why we went to New York for the first time.”

Lebda finished second in his debut at Aqueduct in April, a half-length behind Maven, who won the Prix du Bois-G3 at Chantilly in France next out to become his sire American Pharoah’s first stakes winner. Lebda won a Laurel Park maiden special weight in his second start, and by early December was graded stakes-placed and had earned \$84,525. Part of the Besecker dispersal last December, Lebda sold for \$100,000. Still with Gonzalez, the colt has earned \$130,000 in three starts for Euro Stable, winning the Miracle Wood and Private Terms stakes this year. In eight starts he’s earned \$214,525.

The Super Ninety Nine filly, Super Donna G, won for a \$25,000 tag at Laurel last November, made seven starts for

Besecker and trainer Hugh McMahon while earning \$35,590, and sold at the December sale for \$25,000. Now at Penn National, the Pennsylvania-bred won first time out at 3 and was second in allowance company in March at Penn.

Besecker paid \$11,000 for his seven “cheapest” yearlings in 2018—six resold for a combined \$174,500 in December.

Following the sales market for years, Besecker had always wanted to try it and looked to emulate one he considers the best in the business, John Salzman Sr.

Trainers John Salzman Jr. and his father have made their careers finding gems where others failed to look, and rarely spend more than \$10,000.

“I buy all my horses off looks. I don’t use any paper, any breeding,” said the younger Salzman. “I don’t care who they’re by. Me and my father stand at the back of the sale where we have a perfect look at every horse that comes in the ring and we buy them off their physical looks. We buy fast horses, horses that can win early, and we’ve been very lucky doing it.”

One recent purchase, FortifyfiveRocket, cost \$1,500 as a yearling. The now 3-year-old son of Super Ninety Nine won for a \$25,000 tag at Laurel last May, won twice more in December and has earned \$97,638 in 11 starts.

“It didn’t matter if he brought \$1,500 or he brought \$10,000,” noted Salzman. “We have limits on what we spend, but that’s how I buy horses. If they come into the ring and I like them and if they go for the right price I buy them.”

Picking up FortifyfiveRocket for pocket change did make Salzman wonder what



JIM MCCUE (3)

*Named for a television character, and purchased for just \$2,000, Tommy Shelby won three races and placed in two stakes in his juvenile season.*

he bought. He saw a colt with a “nice rear end, a nice shoulder. And a good eye.” But he went back to the barn of consignor Bill Reightler with a question.

“OK, what’s broke on this one?” Salzman asked.

“Nothing, nothing,” Reightler replied. “How do you keep doing this? Buying horses off me for nothing?”

“I got lucky again,” Salzman said. “I guess.”

Salzman purchased stakes winners Limited View (\$5,200) and Brenda’s Way (\$7,500) from Reightler consignments.

“I don’t even need a sale book,” said Salzman. “If I go to the sale I don’t even care. None of that means anything to me. Especially if I’m spending my own money. I guess I have a good eye for a horse because I buy a lot of good horses that other people miss. It’s worked out for us for years.”

Not knowing much about the horse in the back ring has worked out for Rebecca





JIM MCQUE (3)

*Brenda's Way (left) graduated from a \$7,500 yearling purchase to a stakes winner of \$350,000. Taco Supream cost just \$1,600 as a yearling but became a Maryland Million winner and an earner of \$318,000 (and counting).*

Beecher too, who went to the 2018 sale with one horse in mind and left with another. She paid \$2,000 for a son of Super Ninety Nine she and her husband Mark named Tommy Shelby.

"I actually liked another horse better that was a couple of hips after him, but he was big and probably not going to be a 2-year-old runner," said Rebecca. "I never even pulled this horse out. I just saw him in the back ring, and thought he looked like a pretty racy type and that he'd make a 2-year-old runner. And his breeding as well, having the Malibu Moon on the dam side, was pretty good for me."

Named for the main character in the television series *Peaky Blinders* and trained by Rebecca's father Henry Walters, Tommy Shelby has won three times, was second in the First State Dash at Delaware Park and third in last year's Maryland Juvenile Futurity, and has earned \$111,596 in seven starts while racing for the Beechers.

"Tommy Shelby is very small, he's probably only 15.1," Rebecca said. "But he's very broad—and very good looking. He proves it doesn't matter what size you are."

The success of Tommy Shelby took the Beechers back to last year's sale and they doubled their budget, purchasing a Temple City colt for \$4,000.

"We try and buy horses that are good looking enough for sport," Rebecca said. "That if they don't work out as racehorses we can sell them as something else—they'll have another job. This one we're not sure he'll be a 2-year-old runner but it doesn't really matter to us, we're happy to take our time with him."

Trainer Charles "Snake" Frock takes the approach of one of his mentors from 60 years ago, the late Dickie Dutrow.



*She'smysunshine, who slipped through the auction ring for \$1,000, has placed in multiple stakes in just eight starts.*

Frock remembers Dutrow telling him, "When you go to a sale, and you walk by the stalls and if something catches your eye, you stand there and look at it. Even if it's by nobody out of nobody, you might decide you like the way he's built and he might be worth well buying."

That method worked well with the purchase of Taco Supream and Paisley Singing.

"I'm not sure if we ever looked at him," said Frock of the former. "When he came into the sale, his bid was \$1,000 and Cameron [Frock's grandson] said 'Look at this monster.'"

The colt had a big chest, nice head, big rear end. The Flocks looked at the catalog page "real quick" and went to \$1,600. After signing the ticket, Cameron found out the colt had OCD, so no longer wanted him. Frock and his son Randy bought him out. They almost sold him for \$2,000 (as a riding horse), but Randy insisted they at least try a few races. Taco Supream broke his maiden in his third start for a \$25,000 tag in 2017, got claimed for that figure two

starts later and has now earned \$318,277 including a win in the 2019 Maryland Million Sprint.

Paisley Singing, from the first crop of Golden Lad, cost Frock \$1,000 at the 2018 sale. She's since earned \$84,251.

"We liked the way the filly looked—she's now 16-something hands," Frock said. "Nice body and nicely built. We hit a home run for her. We've been lucky with horses for a thousand or two. Paisley was doing so good we bought another Golden Lad [at last year's sale] for \$10,000."

Hitting home runs for \$1,000 means someone took a hit. For breeder Kristin Fernandez, her only venture into public sales was anything but positive.

Fernandez prepped her Golden Lad filly for the 2018 fall sale, and set an \$8,500 reserve. Unbeknownst to the owner until she reached the sale, a veterinarian misread X-rays and diagnosed a fracture that wasn't there. Fernandez's husband removed the reserve—the filly sold for \$1,000.

"Would she have gone for more? Yes," said Fernandez of the X-ray's impact. "Would she would have gotten to the \$8,500? Who knows."

Purchased by Emerald Racing Stable and named She'smysunshine, the filly launched her career in Pennsylvania, breaking her maiden and finishing third three times, including the Parx Juvenile Fillies Stakes, for trainer Herold Whyllie last year. She has since won an allowance race, finished third in the Wide Country Stakes and fourth in the Beyond The Wire Stakes, all at Laurel Park. She's earned \$81,832 in eight starts, and earned more than \$8,600 for Fernandez in Maryland Fund breeder bonuses.





ANNE EBERHARDT



JIM MCQUE

*A \$3,000 yearling purchase at Timonium, Virginia-bred Long On Value (left) became a Grade 1 winner and millionaire. Veteran turf horse Two Notch Road, a \$2,500 yearling buy, had earned \$536,000 through 2019 and was looking at a 13-year-old campaign.*

"I'm really glad with where she ended up," said Fernandez. "I'm a big believer that everything happens for a reason. You never know what would have happened [if she sold to someone else]. The filly has helped us out by running well and she's in a good spot."

Chip Landry has sold a lot of horses in 50 years in business, so he was a bit astonished when no one would listen when he suggested they take a look at a Virginia-bred colt at the 2012 Midlantic sale.

"Long On Value was from an unraced mare and by a stallion that was not particularly popular at the time. But he was an absolutely grand-looking yearling," Landry said. "And anybody who would have taken the time and really looked at the individual instead of looking at the catalog page would have been able to see that."

Bidding on the bay Value Plus colt stopped at \$3,000, with Richard Hessee signing the ticket. Racing for Hessee's wife Frances, Long On Value won his first three starts at 2, including stakes at Colonial Downs and Delaware Park. He was sold privately to Wachtel Stable and George Kerr, turned over to trainer Bill Mott and ran in stakes all but once the remainder of his 32-start career.

The eight-time stakes winner won the Twilight Derby-G2 and Canadian Turf-G3 and just missed when second in the Al Quoz Sprint-G1 in Dubai. Long On Value sold for \$100,000 at Keeneland November in 2017, then wrapped up his career by winning the Grade 1 Highlander to pass \$1 million in earnings. He stands at stud in Florida.

"I tried my best to get people to take a second look at Long On Value, because I was very aware that his family could pro-

duce runners," said Landry. "But they would say 'No, I can't use a Value Plus.' They would not even bother to have a look."

A year earlier Landry sold a Grand Reward yearling for the same breeder—Snow Lantern Thoroughbreds—for \$1,100 at the fall Midlantic sale. Back in the ring at the Ocala June sale Avanzare brought \$52,000. He went on to win graded stakes at Del Mar, Santa Anita and Arlington Park, won 10 of 23 starts and earned \$573,815. He was out of an unraced mare whose only other foal had yet to win.

"Those two sales results were so discouraging with those two colts—they were nice, well-made, well grown-out colts," said Landry. "They didn't have the pampered look that many of them have at the sale—they were raised to be horses."

Trainer Glenn Thompson knows the horses bred by Virginian Jim Hackman from training for him over the years. Hackman makes it a policy to sell his colts and geldings and keeps his fillies. But when Thompson saw Two Notch Road in 2008, he tried to get the breeder to change his mind.

"Jim, are you sure you don't want to keep this horse?" Thompson said. "He's a really good-looking horse."

"No, I'm sticking with the plan," Hackman replied.

Thompson thought Two Notch Road would go for about \$10,000, and had no intention of bidding on him. But the bidding started slowing down at \$2,000. He got him for \$2,500.

The son of Partner's Hero kicked off his career with three uninspiring juvenile races over Monmouth Park's main track. Thompson entered his gelding in the track's Continental Mile on the turf,

and got a breakthrough—Two Notch Road paid \$216.40 to win.

"After Two Notch Road broke his maiden in the stake, Jim had a filly that I liked that I was also training for him and I said why don't you take a percentage of him and I'll take a percentage of the filly," Thompson said. "So that got Jim back in. I kind of wanted him back in anyway—I felt good having him back in because I knew Two Notch Road was going to be a pretty good horse."

After winning his first two starts at 3, followed by a third in the Colonial Turf Cup-G2 and fourth in the Virginia Derby-G2 at Colonial Downs, and fourth again in the Jersey Derby, Thompson turned down a \$400,000 offer.

"People were telling me I was absolutely out of my mind," said Thompson. "And right after I turned it down, he bowed his tendon. But I gave him two years off and brought him back. He's a special horse. He tries really, really hard every time he goes up there."

With 42 of 46 starts on turf, an average of five starts a year, and lengthy rests each season, Two Notch Road is back in training at age 13.

"I think I've retired him three times already," said Thompson. "Nothing due to soundness—I just thought it was time to retire him. But he is an explosive horse and I think he'd kill somebody in the show ring. He's still the best-looking horse I have. Not many trainers are lucky enough to break a horse when he's 2 and have him still running when he's 12 and hopefully this year when he's 13.

"I wouldn't trade the experiences with him for anything. We've had a blast with him."





# Three Up, Three Down

*Winton leads cast of Hunt Cup's all-time greats*

*By Sean Clancy*

**T**he names roll off the tongue like reciting New York Yankees.

Ruth, Mantle, DiMaggio, Berra, Gehrig, Ford, Jackson, Jeter, Rivera . . . Garry Owen, Princeton, Blockade, Winton, Pine Pep, Mountain Dew, Jay Trump, Cancottage (GB), Senior Senator.

This year was meant to separate the perfect lineup, when nine would become one. When Senior Senator would become the first horse to win the Maryland Hunt Cup four times. Skip Crawford's 10-year-old Pennsylvania-bred had retired the challenge cup in 2019. This year, it was about the mantel.

And then it was gone. He was gone.

This year's Maryland Hunt Cup was canceled due to the coronavirus, the attempt would have to wait. That stung, a what-might-have-been moment of disappointment for his connections, for the sport. On April 15, just 10 days before what was meant to be his confirmation, his culmination, in the sport's most iconic race, Senior Senator died of colic. That knocked you to your knees, a harsh finality in a time of immense fragility.

The club remains at nine. Maybe forever. And in a way, the canceling of this year's race and the death of its reigning king reinforces why the pursuit is so captivating and success so fleeting. In the Hunt Cup, which dates to 1894, in sports, in life.

Cancottage got here too late, arriving after a chasing career in Europe and winning his first Hunt Cup at age 10 in 1980, tacking on two others in 1981 and 1983 and finishing third when he was 15. Oh, if

he could have just been in Mrs. Fanning's hands a little earlier, a little longer.

Jay Trump won the Hunt Cup in 1963 and 1964, skipped the next one while in pursuit of the English Grand National, won that big one in 1965, and returned to win his third Hunt Cup in 1966. Surely, if Aintree hadn't called, the Charles-Town-to-Big-Town overachiever would stand alone with four, or more, Hunt Cups.

Then there's Mountain Dew, the post-and-rail Alydar, the Tufton-Avenue Sham. Walking to and from the course from his Black Rock Road barn, he won his first in 1962, before Jay Trump. Mountain Dew won it again in 1965, when Jay Trump was in England. And the third time, in 1967, when Jay Trump had retired. Third as a 6-year-old in 1961, second to Jay Trump all three times that Hunt Cup hero won, Mountain Dew ran in eight Hunt Cups. It doesn't take many mint juleps at the Colhouns' annual Hunt Cup party to pon-

der what might have been if Tommy Smith hadn't gone to Charles Town to discover Jay Trump so many mornings ago.

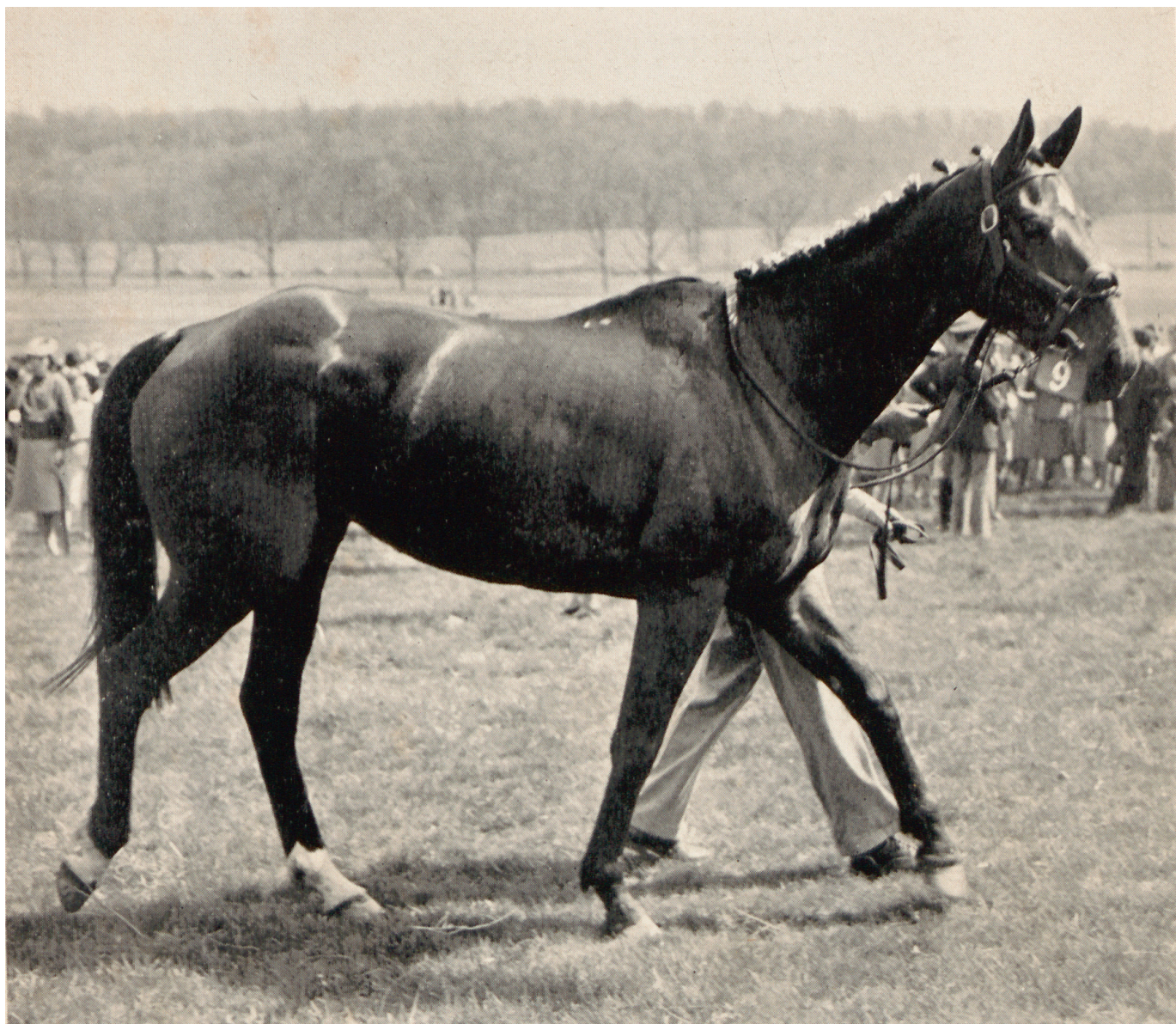
Pine Pep won the Hunt Cup in 1949, 1950 and 1952. So good, his jockey Mikey Smithwick admitted to showing off in his third victory. Which easily could have been his fourth, the coveted, unachievable fourth, but he got tangled up with Bomber at the 11th fence and was brought down in 1951. After his third win, Pine Pep's connections heard the call from England and he missed the 1953 running of the Hunt Cup. Surely, that could have been his fourth.

Then there's Winton. And that's as far as we'll go in reminiscing, because his story is history.

Bred by Helena Raskob of Centreville on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Winton was by U.S. Army Remount stallion Belli Casus. Louis Campbell bought Winton as a yearling and took him to Baltimore County, where he was seen late in his 2-year-old year by Jervis Spencer Jr. A veteran of 20 rides and five victories in the Maryland Hunt Cup, Spencer gave Winton his early lessons. When Spencer died in 1937, Winton was bequeathed to Stuart Janney Jr., master of the Green Spring Valley Hounds.

In 1942, Winton made his Hunt Cup debut in a field of nine including the great Blockade. The latter had won in 1938, 1939 and 1940. The son of Man o' War missed the 1941 race, but returned to seek the unprecedented only to go off course at the





BERT MORGAN

*Winton strolls the paddock before his first Hunt Cup victory in 1942.*

seventh fence. Winton and Janney won, nearly eclipsing Blockade's 1938 course record, and became the first to claim the Maryland triple with wins in the My Lady's Manor, Grand National and Hunt Cup on consecutive Saturdays.

With one Hunt Cup in the books, Winton was on the cusp of greatness. And the world was on the cusp of war.

World War II raged, forcing the cancellation of the Maryland Hunt Cup from 1943-45. A captain in the Marine Corps, Janney went to the Pacific. A Maryland Hunt Cup winner, Winton went to the paddock.

Janney's daughter, Sheila Williams, remembers the horse, the history.

"My mother hunted him during the war, which was quite a feat," Williams said from Locust Hill, her home, Winton's

home, near Butler, Md. "He was pretty strong, my mother rode sidesaddle, I don't think she was out there leading the field, I don't know how long she stayed out, but she did keep him going during the war."

Winton shared the barn, where Williams' son-in-law Jack Fisher keeps his best horses today, with a couple of other foxhunters/timber horses and the cows, they were milked in what became wash stalls for the likes of six-time Virginia Gold Cup winner Saluter and two-time steeplechase champion Good Night Shirt.

The Janney family grew their own food, hunkered down, waited for the patriarch to come home. Janney wrote letters constantly to his wife, Barbara, and their four children, praising his wife's handling of the horses when the barn burned down and worrying about the government's threat to

send two farm workers to war, something it had promised wouldn't happen.

"They handled it so well, he wrote to us a lot. It was quite something what they all did. It was such a change. I think the war years were rather good for us, you learned that life wasn't always exactly what you had in mind," Williams said. "We didn't go to town to school, we went over to Frank Bonsal's grandmother's, she had five of us in kindergarten and then I had a year of homeschooling and I started school in second grade. We just didn't have things, we grew chickens, grew vegetables. It wasn't a glamorous life, but it was good. It was healthy. It was healthy."

And, yes, Williams realizes she had it better than many during the war, just like most realize they have it better today, during the pandemic. But it's the palpable





*Winton, with wartime partner Barbara Janney, graced the cover of Maryland Horse in April 1944.*



*In 1946, the first Hunt Cup after World War II, Winton and Stuart Janney Jr. (right) lead Count Stefan (Jackie Bosley) and Vaunt (Charles "Pistol" White).*



*Winton gallops across the finish line an easy winner over Bungtown in the 1947 Hunt Cup.*

loss of life and the decimation of routine which rocks anybody's world. Nothing has brought those truths home more than the coronavirus and its aftermath. At least to those who had never lived through a life-altering, livelihood-shattering, history-making event of this scale. Everything is different, everyone affected.

"I think this is worse because nobody ever thought the war was permanent, they were surprised it went on as long as it did," Williams said. "This, nobody knows what's coming next, we do not have a clue. You knew it was going to be good after the war."

For Janney and Winton, it was oh so good. The "big, raw-boned, lopey" gelding and his war-injured jockey (Janney was awarded a Purple Heart after being shot in the leg) returned where they had left off. In 1946, they again won the Manor, Grand National and Hunt Cup, the latter over an altered course after much of it was farmed during the war. They started on the backside, ran through a wheat field, jumped 21 fences instead of the traditional 22. Janney capitalized on a rookie mistake by the then 17-year-old Smithwick who gunned Free State at the 19th fence (usually the 20th) and fell. Winton won easily. The following year, Winton won the Manor but lost the Grand National, his first career loss. A week later, Winton, 13, and Janney, 40, ran their last race, winning their third and final Hunt Cup, the horse eyeing up his fences and Janney relying solely on feel.

"He had been wounded in the war and couldn't grip with his legs," Williams said of her father. "He rode completely by balance. The horse was so honest, he wasn't a real fast horse or anything, just a neat animal, a nice horse."

Winton retired to the hunt field, joining Mrs. Janney on Vaunt, also a Hunt Cup runner, and their daughter on Dusky Stranger, yet another Hunt Cup starter.

"Everybody went in the Maryland Hunt Cup," Williams said. "Those were the three, the three stalwarts of my youth."

Three stalwarts. One Winton. The only horse to win three Maryland Hunt Cups, in three attempts, over six years.

"There might not have been as big a horse population ready to do that, with reason, after the war," Williams said. "Maybe it was a lot easier job then."

As we learned yet again this year, there's nothing easy about winning three Maryland Hunt Cups. Nothing. ✨



# In Memoriam

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## RICHARD BLUE SR.

Thoroughbred owner/breeder and Maryland Horse Breeders Association member Richard Blue, a retired Baltimore investment banker, died April 3. He was 90. Blue was born in North Carolina and raised there, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Owings Mills, Md. He worked at Mercantile Bank, Robert Garrett and Sons, which was later acquired by Alex. Brown and Sons. In 2003, Blue retired from Deutsche Bank, which had acquired Alex. Brown.

Blue enjoyed golf, hunting and racing. His horses were regulars on the Maryland circuit and included homebred winner Daniel Le Deux and \$200,000 earner King Richard. Blue's son Richard Blue Jr. has bred and campaigned graded stakes winner Root Boy and the sire's multiple stakes-winning daughter Sneaks, Maryland Million winner Dr Detroit and others.

Blue is also survived by son Henry Blue and daughter Gary Blue Peterson; brothers William Blue and Clark MacKenzie and sister Margot Rawlings; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## MARTIN MORA

Maryland Jockey Club security guard Martin Mora, a familiar presence at the Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course winner's circles and a former backstretch worker, died April 18. He was 56.

Mora worked for trainer Larry Murray on the backside for years, pulling double duty as a security guard in the afternoons, and had been on the winner's circle post

for most of the last decade. Part of Mora's job was assisting track photographer Jimmy McCue, who called Mora a valuable member of the team and a longtime friend.

Mora also drove a van for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, taking backstretch workers to appointments and stores. His survivors include son Chris, who works security for the MJC and will now take over in the winner's circle.

## SALLY RICHARDSON

Maryland horsewoman Sally Brown Thomas Richardson, whose tasks in racing included everything from owner, breeder and trainer to working in the racing office of Maryland tracks and being a placing judge, died April 14. She was 85.

Richardson was born in New Jersey, the daughter of William D. Thomas, a trainer and huntsman with the Essex Fox Hounds who later trained two-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Ned's Flying. Sally Richardson rode in horse shows as a young girl and continued as the family moved to Bryn Mawr and West Chester, Pa. After high school, she worked with her father on the Maryland half-mile circuit with stops in Timonium, Cumberland, Bel Air and Marlboro.

Sally met future husband James J. Richardson Jr. at the Cumberland racetrack and they trained horses together in the Mid-Atlantic before he took a job as broodmare manager at Glenangus Farm. The Richardsons lived in Forest Hill and later Monkton, and raised five children. After moving to a home in Baltimore, near Pimlico, Sally took a job in the Pimlico rac-

ing office where she worked with daughter Lisa and son Jamie. Sally retired from the Maryland Jockey Club after a stroke in 2013.

She is survived by daughters Leslie Gosey, Sandra Goodman and Lisa Mitten, sons J. David Richardson and James M. Richardson Sr., a sister Margaret Thomas Young, six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

## JAMES WYATT JR.

Lifelong horseman James R. Wyatt Jr., 83, of Marshallton, Pa., died April 17. He was born in Chilhowie, Va., Sept. 24, 1936.

Known to his friends as Jimmy, Wyatt began his career as a steeplechase jockey with Richard Atkinson, near Malvern, Pa., before riding races for Hall of Fame trainers Burley Cocks, Mickey Walsh and Mikey Smithwick. Retiring after a schooling fall at Aqueduct Racetrack in 1962, Wyatt owned and trained horses from his Pennsylvania base before retiring to cheer on his sons' horses on the flat and steeplechase circuits.

Wyatt was the son of James R. and Pearl Wyatt Sr. and was predeceased by four sisters.

Wyatt is survived by his wife, Betty Hogan Wyatt. They were married in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Aug. 20, 1961. They met at a backstretch baseball game, Jimmy bought Betty a Coke and they were together ever since.

In addition, Wyatt is survived by sister, Edie Nance, daughters Jamie Wyatt, Kimberly Edgar, Kristine Woodall, Nancy Rodriguez, sons Timothy Wyatt and Todd Wyatt and seven grandchildren.



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## Major boost at a difficult time for Maryland racing

BY TOM LAMARRA

**T**he Racing and Community Development Act of 2020, which will protect the long-term future of horse racing in Maryland through the rebuilding of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park into state-of-the-art facilities, was one of many bills Gov. Larry Hogan allowed to become law without his signature May 7.

The legislation, which had broad bipartisan support in the House of Delegates and Senate, calls for the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$375 million in bonds for the projects through a combination of funds from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account, the Purse Dedication Account, video lottery terminal payments to Baltimore City and money from the Maryland Lottery. The Act was to take effect June 1.

The plan that led to the legislation was put together beginning last summer by Alan Foreman, legal counsel for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association; Alan Rifkin, legal counsel for the Maryland Jockey Club; and Bill Cole, a consultant who previously served as President of the Baltimore Development Corp. The plan includes a new stable area, training facility and synthetic racing surface at Laurel and the ability to use the new Pimlico as a year-round event and community center.

A major part of the legislation is keeping the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico and giving the racetrack property to the city.

The bill becoming law was a bright spot for the industry as live racing at Laurel Park had been suspended for almost two months because of state restrictions related to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

"It has been a long road, and we're all thrilled about the future of Maryland racing now," Foreman said. "It's hard to believe, but this [plan] didn't even exist a year ago. We took our best shot and put together a plan that is a win-win for everyone involved. This is a very important day in the future of the Maryland racing industry."

The legislation passed both houses on the final day of a General Assembly session shortened by the spread of virus, which ultimately led to the closure of numerous Maryland businesses and industries. Foreman said the current environment will impact when the rebuilding plan can begin, but in the meantime the Maryland Stadium Authority will begin to do the necessary design work.

"We'll have some breathing room in the transition period," Foreman said.

Hogan, who also allowed legislation authorizing a statewide sports betting referendum to be on the November ballot this year, indicated that he didn't look favorably upon bills that increased spending or taxes. The Racing and Community Development Act was designed to employ funds already dedicated to the racing industry.

"We decided last year we needed to do this within our own means with existing revenue," Foreman said. "We avoided a potential problem with a capital project that does not require [tax increases]."

The two-track reconstruction projects will also provide hundreds if not thousands of jobs, both in the construction phase and after the projects are complete. Thus, the projects will provide an economic stimulus as the state recovers from the shutdown.



The economic impact of COVID-19 on the racing industry brought forth the generosity of others in the form of a Pimlico Race Course "food pantry" that became more than a one-time event as intended, and four different backstretch-wide meals at Pimlico and Laurel Park provided by a Thoroughbred owner based in Maryland.

Jessica Hammond of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and her husband, Scott, who manages the Maryland State Fair off-track betting operation and also serves as a clocker at Pimlico

for the Maryland Jockey Club, saw a need in the backstretch community during the live racing shutdown that led some to be unemployed. They lease Somerset Farm in Harford County and found others willing to help out via their small lay-up operation.

"Scott is able to be at Pimlico every day and at the farm I see the people who board their horses," Hammond said. "We had an idea to bring food to Pimlico, and the people who we see regularly were very generous. We asked them to donate. Some gave [packaged] food but others wanted to donate money, so we set up accounts for them to do so."

Some photos and a "thank you" to donors on Facebook led to more financial donations that provided enough funds so that Hammonds' parents were able to purchase food items in bulk as well as toiletries at a wholesale market. Others such as Dr. Nick Meitinis of the Maryland Veterinary Group also donated money, and the end result was three food pantry days at Pimlico thus far.

"We had grocery bags for each person, and the last time we did it we had less food, so we pre-organized about 40 bags at home," Hammond said. "And last time, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association donated polo shirts, hats and insulated lunch bags, which the backstretch workers loved. This started informally, but so many people wanted to donate so we kept it going during this difficult time for many people."

Stewart Nickel, who operates the Winners Circle Partners Thoroughbred ownership operation, contacted Bobby Lillis of the MTHA and generously offered to provide free breakfast and lunch at the MJC tracks for a total of four meals in one week in May. Nickel's donation paid for food prepared in the Laurel track kitchen by Miguel Paz and his staff, who served about 500 meals in total. ✨



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## MHBA gets new home in historic Reisterstown

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association will move to a permanent home at 321 Main Street in historic Reisterstown. The MHBA has had offices in Baltimore County since its founding in 1929. This area is home to many horse-related activities, including the Maryland Hunt Cup, Maryland Grand National, the Green Spring Hunt Club and Shawan Downs.

The MHBA has been searching for a location to house the offices of the association, Maryland Million Ltd., *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazine and the Maryland Horse Industry Foundation. The offices have most recently been on the campus of Goucher College in hopes of being a part of a new equestrian facility on campus. However, last fall the college decided to put several capital projects on hold indefinitely, prompting the MHBA to pursue a permanent solution.

The stately Reisterstown building is a 15-minute drive from the famed Sagamore Farm and just more than 20 minutes from Pimlico Race Course. The building comprises approximately 7,000 square feet that will eventually feature a library and memorabilia area, in addition to meeting rooms.



"The acquisition of this historic building ends our organization's search for a suitable home which has extended over the last decade. It will allow the MHBA to better serve our members and the general equine community, in line with our mission and in the best long-term fiscal interest of our organization," says Michael Harrison, MHBA president.

"I like to thank all those who've worked so diligently to achieve this momentous goal."

The building is just minutes from Baltimore's beltway (I-695) and the Northwest Expressway (I-795), and has plenty of convenient, free parking for visitors and staff. The plan is for the staff to move in by July 1.

## Maryland-bred registration extended

The Maryland-bred registration deadline for yearlings of 2020 has been extended to Tuesday, June 30.

To register your Maryland-bred yearling online, go to [marylandthoroughbred.com](http://marylandthoroughbred.com).



# Miss Disco, Iron Maiden flew Maryland flag with distinction

By Cindy Deubler

*Longtime racing writer and Maryland Horse contributor Joe B. Hickey Jr., who would later become general manager of Windfields Farm, was often compelled to sift through the archives of the magazine and highlight the careers of Maryland-bred runners. In 1958, he decided to "broach the task of compiling a permanent and concise tabulation of modern-day Maryland-bred stakes winners and their successes. . ." and researched those who won stakes from 1940-57. The year 1940 was chosen as a point of demarcation as it was the first year the Stakes Winners Supplement was printed by The Blood-Horse magazine, which aided in the research. Hickey noted his tabulation was "as correct and as complete as available records permit." The following chronicles two of the 172 Maryland-breds on the list, and what they accomplished after their racing careers.*



Sagamore Farm-bred Miss Disco left her mark on the breed.

**M**iss Disco. Iron Maiden. The names are ingrained in racing lore. But in 1947 these two Maryland-bred runners, competing on opposite coasts, had yet to win a stakes.

Iron Maiden was older by three years. Based in California and racing in the name of Ellwood B. Johnston, the 6-year-old mare had returned to the track after delivering a foal in 1946. A daughter of War Admiral, Iron Maiden was a modest winner at 2 and 3, earning \$8,065 from 19 starts. She launched her racing career for her breeder, movie mogul Louis B. Mayer, and counted among her wins in his colors an allowance at Aqueduct June 10, 1944. Two races later on that same card Brownie, Bossuet and Wait a Bit made history by finishing in a triple

dead heat in the Carter Handicap. A decade later the bay filly would make headlines of her own.

Miss Disco was bred by Alfred Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm and sold as a yearling in 1945 at the Meadow Brook sale on Long Island in August for \$2,100, tied for the sixth least expensive of the 14-horse consignment. Pre-sale notes described her as "a very nice filly, tall, rangy, a good walker with straight hind leg. Had a kick in the flank in front of the point of the hip which is healing well and does not affect the filly's soundness."

Racing for her buyer, Sydney Schupper, Miss Disco won twice at 2 and achieved stakes success the following August.

Sprinting proved to be her strength. Although a daughter

of the stout and longwinded Discovery, the filly out of the Pompey mare Outdone (one of Vanderbilt's first stakes winners) captured the 7-furlong Test Stakes at Saratoga for her first stakes score, and added three stakes wins at 4, including the New Rochelle and Interborough Handicaps at 6 furlongs.

Iron Maiden won going short early in her career, but recorded her first and only stakes win against males in the Del Mar Handicap at 1½ miles in September 1947. She was stakes-placed at 7 in the Vanity and San Diego Handicaps, also at 1½ miles. In the two years following her two-year hiatus, she made 42 starts and was on the board 22 times. She retired with earnings of \$52,590 from 61 starts.

Miss Disco raced through age 6, earning \$80,250 from 54 starts with 10 wins, three seconds and 10 thirds, and was sold privately to Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps' Wheatley Stable. By the time she retired, her year-younger full-brother Loser Weeper, racing for Vanderbilt, had won nine stakes, including the Suburban, Vosburgh, Metropolitan and Dixie, and earned \$232,920.

Iron Maiden's circuitous route began in Maryland for the sole reason that her dam Betty Derr was sent to William Brann's Glade Valley Farm in Frederick to be bred to \*Challenger II. Betty Derr did not produce a foal the next year,

but Iron Maiden was officially a Maryland-bred.

Mayer sold Iron Maiden in October of her 3-year-old season to breeder W.W. "Tiny" Naylor. The 6-foot-4, 300-pound Naylor, famous for his family-style restaurants and drive-in diners throughout California, had purchased Iron Maiden in a spur-of-the-moment deal, sight unseen. He paid \$7,500 for the filly, raced her a few times, and decided to breed her during the racing blackout in 1945. He sent her to Mayer's stallion \*Beau Pere—the filly born the next year was Iron Reward.

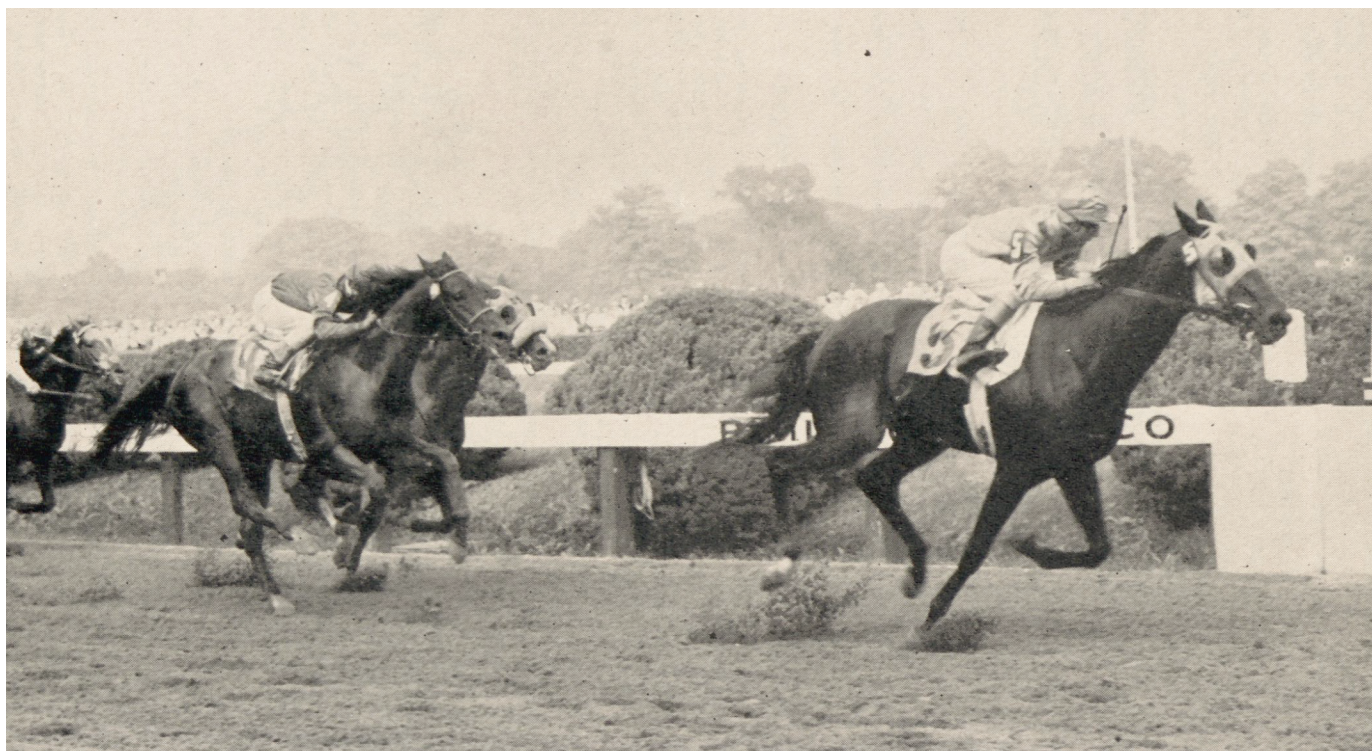
Naylor recalled in a 1955 interview that he sold Iron Maiden to Johnston for \$12,000, and her daughter, Iron Reward, to Rex Ellsworth for \$15,000. Iron Reward never won in eight starts, but produced as her first foal Ellsworth's future Kentucky Broodmare of the Year Track Medal (by \*Khaled), the dam of four stakes winners. Iron Reward's third foal was a full-brother to Track Medal, Hall of Famer Swaps. The 1956 Horse of the Year and champion handicap horse won the 1955 Kentucky Derby and became a leading sire. Iron Reward also became a Kentucky Broodmare of the Year.

While making 20 starts at age 7 in 1948, Iron Maiden was in foal to \*Old English (the resulting foal, the gelding Iron Monocle, failed to win in 10 starts). Johnston, the founder of Old English Rancho in the 1940s, then sold Iron Maiden to Calumet Farm. In 1950 the mare produced her first of four foals sired by Calumet's champion stallion Bull Lea.

Miss Disco and Iron Maiden were now based in Kentucky, broodmares in the hands of two of the most dominant breeding operations in the world. In 1957, their worlds collided.

Miss Disco produced 11 foals in all. Her first, in 1951, was the winning Rosemont filly Hill Rose (dam of multiple stakes winner True North); the last an unraced colt by Nadir named Great Adventure in 1965. Of her other foals, six were by \*Nasrullah—all were





Miss Disco's son Bold Ruler speeds away to victory in the 1957 Preakness Stakes over Kentucky Derby winner Iron Liege, a son of Iron Maiden, to complete the exacta for the Maryland-bred stakes-winning, classic-producing mares.

winners, three in stakes and one stakes-placed. The best became one of the greatest names in Thoroughbred history, Bold Ruler.

Born in 1954, Bold Ruler won three stakes at 2, including the Futurity at Belmont Park. Fiery and fast, he was Horse of the Year and champion 3-year-old in a year he won nine stakes, topped by the Preakness. The following year he was champion sprinter.

A member of what many racing historians consider the best crop in Thoroughbred history, Bold Ruler battled \*Gallant Man, Gen. Duke, Round Table and Iron Liege on a regular basis. The latter was Iron Maiden's sixth foal.

In his first 16 starts, Bold Ruler was the favorite in 14, including the Kentucky Derby. He finished ahead of Iron Liege three times in Florida, races that produced epic battles with Calumet Farm's early Derby favorite, Gen. Duke. Bold Ruler won the Bahamas and Flamingo, Gen. Duke the Everglades and Florida Derby. Iron Liege was third in the latter three.

Iron Liege was still seeking his first stakes win when he

lined up for the Kentucky Derby. Calumet Farm was down a weapon when Gen. Duke was scratched the morning of the race because of a stone bruise, which trainers Ben and Jimmy Jones tried to nurse during the week. Without his stablemate, Iron Liege went off at 8-1.

However, he already had a strong following, due in large part to a fortuitous event that began just after midnight on March 10, 1954. Gerald Astor, photo editor for an as-yet untitled "new weekly sport magazine," and famous nature photographer Ylla were ready to follow the birth of a foal at Calumet. The next mare up was Iron Maiden, and the birth of Iron Liege was photographed and documented, as was his upbringing over the next three years, in *Sports Illustrated*. The headline in the Feb. 25, 1957, issue of *Sports Illustrated* said it all: "The Baby Started at 9,066 to 1" as Iron Liege was pointing to the Derby.

In one of the most famous runnings of the Derby, Iron Liege gained the lead turning for home and fought off \*Gallant Man down the stretch. The two raced as a team to the wire when Bill Shoemaker on

\*Gallant Man misjudged the finish line and briefly stood up; Shoemaker immediately went back to riding but Iron Liege and Bill Hartack held off \*Gallant Man to win by a nose. Round Table got up for third as Bold Ruler finished fourth.

In Baltimore, the two sons of Maryland-bred mares faced each other once again in the Preakness. The slight second choice behind Iron Liege, Bold Ruler dominated, leading at every call and winning by 2 lengths over Iron Liege in second. Bold Ruler would come back to contest the Belmont Stakes, finishing third behind \*Gallant Man, then win 11 of his remaining 14 starts.

Iron Liege bypassed the Belmont while scoring the Jersey Stakes at Garden State, Laurance Armour Memorial at Arlington Park and Sheridan Handicap at Washington Park that season; he added a win in Hialeah's McLennan Handicap at 4 before retiring with a record of 33-11-9-5 and earnings of \$404,169.

Bold Ruler won 17 stakes, boasted a record of 33-23-4-2 and banked \$764,204. He was inducted into the National

Racing Hall of Fame in 1973. The nation's leading sire eight times, his 11 champions were led by Secretariat. A renowned sire of sires, Bold Ruler's direct descendants won seven Kentucky Derbies in the 1970s, and the line continues. Recent Derby winners California Chrome and Orb are from the Bold Ruler male line through Seattle Slew and A.P. Indy.

Iron Liege never stood in the U.S. after legendary French breeder Marcel Boussac purchased him to stand at his Haras de Fresnay-le-Buffard. A decade later Iron Liege was sold to Japan, and although he is considered a failure at stud, he did sire the top-class Japanese runner Strong Eight.

Iron Maiden produced 12 foals, had seven winners from 10 starters, and three stakes winners, the others being Iron Liege's older full-brother Trentonian, a three-time stakes winner at 2 in 1954; and Aczay (by On-and-On), her final foal born in 1964 when she was 23. But Iron Maiden's achievement as dam and granddam of two Kentucky Derby winners in three years continues to rank as one of the rarest feats in breeding history.





## MARYLAND FOAL REPORT

**ANOFFICERANDALADY**, by Officer, b.c., April 5, by Shaman Ghost. Thornmar and Colleen Torsney. Mare to Uncle Lino.

**BANG AWAY**, by Sky Mesa, b.c., April 8, by Hoppertunity. Thornmar.

**BECKON THE QUEEN**, by Ghazi, ch.f., April 20, by Irish War Cry. David Krasnoff.

**BELLE OF CAMDEN**, by Black Tie Affair (Ire), ch.c., March 12, by Shackleford. Alice Edwards. Mare to Blofeld.

**BLUSHING BRIDE**, by Miesque's Son, b.f., April 25, by Karakontie (Jpn). John Banner and Cheri Banner.

**BOMBSHELL BABE**, by Domestic Dispute, b.c., March 29, by Peace and Justice. Joe M. Thomson.

**BROKEN TREATY**, by Chief Seatle, b.c., April 27, by Bourbon Courage. Clover Hill Farm Inc. Mare to Hoppertunity.

**CAMPAIGN VOWS**, by Broken Vow, dk.b./br.f., April 13, by Blofeld. Wasabi Ventures Stbs LLC and Greenspring Mares. Mare to Force the Pass.

**CELTIC MUSIC**, by Yarrow Brae, dk.b./br.c., March 30, by Blofeld. Murmur Farm. Mare to Hangover Kid.

**DISTINCT AFFAIR**, by With Distinction, b.c., April 10, by Holy Boss. Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox.

**DIVA MEG**, by Exchange Rate, dk.b./br.f., Feb. 28, by Blofeld. Murmur Farm. Mare to Blofeld.

**D K'S BRIGANTIA**, by Warrior's Reward, b.c., March 23, by Bandbox. Timothy L. Keefe and M.O. M. Stable.

**DWELLING PLACE**, by Forest Camp, b.c., March 11, by Great Notion. Pinochle Partners. Mare to Blofeld.

**EL VEDADO**, by Big Brown, b.f., March 16, by Point of Entry. Big Lick Farm.

**GLIMPSE**, by Touch Gold, dk.b./br.f., March 30, by Midnight Lute. Thornmar. Mare to Midshipman.

**GO GET'M IRISH**, by Kitalpha, dk.b./br.c., March 30, by Blofeld. Charles Blanford.

**GOLDEN INNIS**, by Yarrow Brae, dk.b./br.f., April 2, by Blofeld. Murmur Farm.

**HAPPY HAILEY**, by Rock Slide, ch.f., April 9, by Golden Lad. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to No Never No More.

**IRISH GAL**, by Cape Blanco (Ire), b.f., April 13, by Barbados. James B. Steele.

**KISS THE PRINCESS**, by Any Given Saturday, b.c., April 8, by Astern (Aus). Thornmar. Mare to Golden Lad.

**LIONHEART CHAMPION**, by Lion Heart, b.c., Feb. 25, by Klimt. Marathon Farms Inc.

**MARZES**, by Powerscourt (GB), b.c., April 11, by Outflanker. James B. Steele.

**MISS ADELE**, by Speightstown, b.f., March 21, by Oscar Performance. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to Mendelssohn.

**MISS CHARLOTTE**, by Two Punch, gr./ro.f., March 21, by Include. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC and Greenspring Mares. Mare to Mor Spirit.

**MISS NOSY**, by Louis Quatorze, dk.b./br.f., April 20, by Blofeld. MCA Racing Stable LLC. Mare to Biblical.

**MISS SUWANEE**, by Mr. Greeley, b.f., Feb. 13, by Hangover Kid. Bruce Grossman.

**MISSTREATED**, by Dehere, b.c., April 13, by Mr Speaker. Richard J. Hackerman.

**MONSTER SLEEPING**, by Oratory, b.c., Feb. 28, by Blofeld. Charles Reed. Mare to Summer Front.

**MOTHERLOAD HIPSTER**, by Dance With Ravens, dk.b./br.c., April 8, by Holy Boss. Dr. Ronald Harris Parker. Mare to Imagining.

**MY GOLDEN BELLE**, by My Golden Song, b.c., Feb. 11, by Twirling Candy. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to The Factor.

**ONEMINUTETOMIDNITE**, by Street Cry (Ire), b.c., April 10,

4



Sara Gordon

Colt by Mizzen Mast, foaled at GreenMount Farm, is the first foal for the Elusive Quality mare Super Mama.



Erin Harrison

Mr Speaker colt is out of \$523,531-earner Warrioroftheroses's half-sister Misstreated.



George Adams

Great Notion—Wild for Love filly descends from stakes winners Sticky and Hair Spray.



Sara Gordon

Taking in the action at Marama Farm is Golden Lad's daughter out of Happy Hailey (by Rock Slide).



by Uncle Lino. Thornmar. Mare to Bourbon Courage.  
ONEMORETIMEAGAIN, by Love of Money, b.c., April 20, by Divining Rod. Clover Hill Farm Inc.

PARADE OF COLORS, by Leading the Parade, b.f., March 26, by Mosler. John E. Williamson III. Mare to Divining Rod.

PARTICIPATE, by Include, dk.b./br.c., April 20, by Irish War Cry. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Jeff Musgrove and Greenspring Mares LLC. Mare to Force the Pass.

PEACHES MY DEAR, by Express Tour, b.f., March 13, by Great Notion. Pinochle Partners. Mare to Force the Pass.

ROCKPORT DANCER, by Rockport Harbor, ch.c., April 4, by Macho Uno. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Steven Crayne, Connie Black, Clarence Diehl, Larry Davis, Mike Yeager and Greenspring Mares LLC. Mare to Jimmy Creed.

RYSY, by Langfuhr, b.c., April 8, by Goldencents. Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC.

SAUCY COUNTESS, by Tabasco Cat, dk.b./br.c., April 2, by Outflanker. Little Man Farm. Mare to Outflanker.

SCOUTS OUT, by Lion Hearted, b.c., April 4, by Blofeld. William Fossett.

SEEKING OPTIONS, by Seeking Daylight, b.f., April 11, by Speightster. Winners Circle Partners VIII.

SOME KINDA LOVE, by Not For Love, gr./ro.c., April 5, by Blofeld. Thornmar. Mare to Great Notion.

SOUTHERN PEACH, by East of Easy, ch.c., April 7, by Golden Lad. Leaf Stable.

STARR GATE, by Mineshaft, dk.b./br.f., April 16, by Golden Lad. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Connie Black, Kyle Scribner and Greenspring Mares LLC. Mare to Force the Pass.

SUPER MAMA, by Elusive Quality, gr./ro.c., March 19, by Mizzen Mast. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Christopher Boyd, Jonathan Barnes, Craig Meltzer, Michael Dzik and Greenspring Mares LLC. Mare to Demarchelier (GB).

TACONIC VICTORY, by Eddington, ch.c., April 10, by Dortmund. Tori Martinez deVries and Broad Creek Bloodstock LLC.

TATTOOED GIRL, by More Than Ready, b.c., April 8, by Golden-

cents. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Golden Lad.

TIZ EMILY AND JILL, by Tiz Wonderful, ch.c., April 1, by Irish War Cry. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Mike Yeager, Stephen Sedmak, Connie Black and Greenspring Mares LLC. Mare to Force the Pass.

TIZ MAJESTY, by Tiz Wonderful, b.f., March 3, by Blofeld. Brian McFarlane.

UNIFORMLY YOURS, by Grand Slam, b.c., April 12, by Kitten's

Joy. George Louis Doetsch Jr. Mare to More Than Ready.

UNTILTHEREWASYOU, by Big Brown, b.c., March 22, by Outwork. Thornmar. Mare to Force the Pass.

WILD FOR LOVE, by Not For Love, b.f., March 11, by Great Notion. Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Gregory Caliwag and Greenspring Mares LLC. Mare to Maximus Mischief.

## Foals Wanted

Send your foal reports and photographs of 2020 foals for inclusion on the Maryland Horse Breeders Association website and *The Maryland Horse* newsletter.

Email information to

[cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com](mailto:cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com).

Submissions may also be made on the MHBA website at [MarylandThoroughbred.com/foalreport](http://MarylandThoroughbred.com/foalreport).

## Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program canceled

The fourth Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program, scheduled for June 8-13, has been canceled for 2020.

"Given the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, we have decided to suspend the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program for 2020," said program coordinator Jordyn Egan. "This decision was not made lightly and we look forward to resuming the program in 2021. In the meantime, interested candidates are welcome to reach out to discuss alternative opportunities for the upcoming year."

Launched in 2017, the MTCP is an educational program presented by the Maryland Horse Industry Foundation that aims to:

- Increase awareness of the diverse career options in the Thoroughbred industry.
- Give participants access to leaders of the Maryland Thoroughbred community.
- Highlight various paths for pursuing a career in the Thoroughbred industry.
- Address a critical need to attract and retain experienced and devoted employees.

Over a week, participants are encouraged to fully engage in the Maryland Thoroughbred industry and explore a multitude of career options. Graduates of the MTCP are eligible to apply for Career Development Funds, which can be used to further career pursuits within two years after the program ends.

## Maryland-breds noted in catalog at Keeneland

Registered Maryland-breds selling at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale (Monday, Sept. 14 through Saturday, Sept. 26) will now be noted as such (versus foaled in Maryland).

Maryland-breds registered with the MHBA by June 15 will automatically have the notation on their catalog page. Contact the MHBA office with questions or more information.



Distinct Affair's son by Holy Boss is from the family of Dubai Golden Shaheen-G1 winner Our New Recruit.



Irish War Cry colt is the first foal for Tiz Emily and Jill, a winning granddaughter of Lakeway.

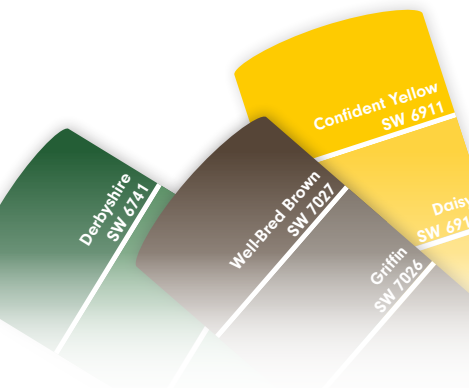


The first foal for stakes-placed Rockport Dancer (Rockport Harbor) is a colt by Macho Uno.

Erin Harrison

George Adams (2)





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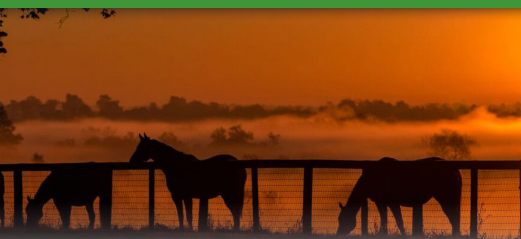
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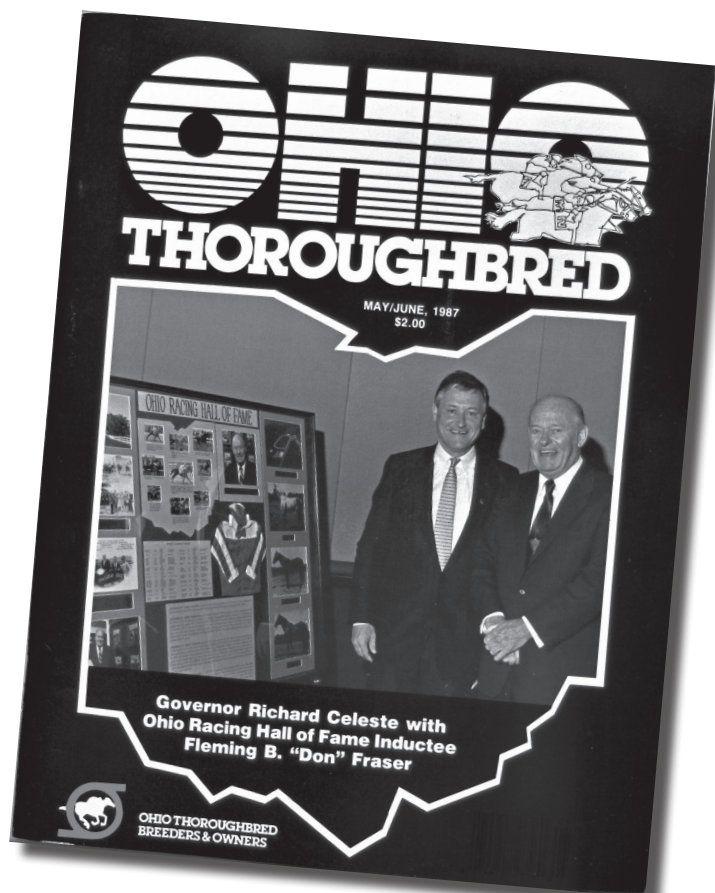


## LIKE THE REST OF THE INDUSTRY — OHIO IN A HOLDING PATTERN

By the time you read this, we hope that there will be major positive changes in the racing world. At this writing, Ohio is on standby with owners chomping at the bit to get their horses in the starting gate. The National H.B.P.A. has outlined a detailed guideline for the tracks to use to operate safely when given the green light by Governor DeWine. We know at this point it will not be a landmark year for purses, but the industry needs to continue to operate as it benefits the livelihood of so many, from the farms to the finish line.

Scott Borgemenke, Chairman of the Ohio State Racing Commission, Executive Director Bill Crawford and Ohio H.B.P.A. Executive Director Dave Basler have been working tirelessly to prepare facilities and horsemen for a return to racing. They are working with all of the entities for a healthy environment for the horses to continue training and eventually, racing. This process will keep thousands gainfully employed and will give owners and breeders a chance to reap the rewards of their investments in the industry.

Our Annual Awards Banquet has been postponed for now. Rest assured, we are working on a plan to honor our champions in a public forum, the time and place will be determined by a number of factors. Enjoy this look back in time, featuring some of the people, horses and events that have made Ohio a thriving and exciting place to breed and race. Each of these subjects are deserving a feature story of their own. In this edition we will give you just a "Cliff Notes" read of their significant place in Ohio racing.



Governor Richard Celeste with Ohio Racing Hall of Fame inductee Fleming B. "Don" Fraser

### Fleming B. "Don" Fraser

Fleming B. "Don" Fraser was the master of Happy Times Farm in Morrow, Ohio, from 1964 to 1987. At the time, the 175-acre farm was the first totally enclosed training track in the world. It was also the home for Mr. Fraser's 20 stakes horses, winners of 48 stakes and handicaps, and over 200 other winners. Through Happy Times Farm he bred and sold over \$1.5 million worth of Ohio-breds including 15 stakes winners. At the time his racing stable had earned in excess of \$2 million in purses.

In late 1969 he was instrumental in reactivating an almost defunct Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners and became President in 1970. He then served 12 years on the Governor-appointed Ohio Advisory Board for the Thoroughbred Fund, which benefits everyone who breeds and races in Ohio.

Mr. Fraser also started the Stallion Season Auction in 1970 and was instrumental in starting the Horsemen's Short Course at Ohio State University.



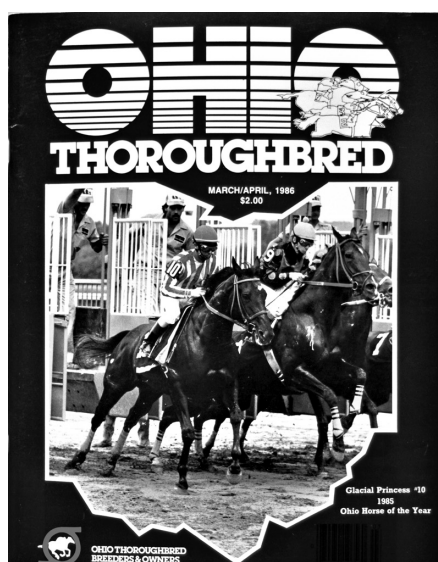
## Glacial Princess among the best in the 1980s

**G**lacial Princess was a bright shooting star on the Ohio circuit in the mid-1980s. The steel gray filly by Brent's Prince out of Gay North, by Nearctic, was always easy to see when she was in a race—she was the one with the easy lead. Her headstrong running style left many a rider arm weary after a race, but it also led her to a 27-7-6 record from 52 starts. Her \$542,792 in earnings left her just \$44,372 short of Royal Harmony's Ohio-bred record.

A \$19,000 purchase from breeder Cider Mill Farm at the 1982 Ohio Thoroughbred Fall Mixed Sale as the sales-topper, Glacial Princess was campaigned by Dr. John Graver and Bill Fouss as Equinall Stables. She set the bar high in her 4-year-old Horse of the Year season of 1985.

◆ No champion in the 22-year history of "The Best of the Buckeyes" had won more stakes races. Her nine added-money triumphs became the filly record and matched the standard established by Rollin On Over in 1983.

◆ No Ohio champion had banked more money in a single season than Glacial Prin-



Glacial Princess, under Harvey Puckett, breaks from the gate outside of rival Blackberry in 1986.

cess. Her 1985 total of \$227,287 shattered the old mark of \$152,551 set in 1982.

◆ No filly queen had worked harder. Glacial Princess' 17 starts were the most among the

four champion Ohio distaffers, eclipsing the schedules of Tah Dah, Royal North and Marty's Darling.

◆ No filly champion had made as many stakes starts in a championship year. She went postward in 15 consecutive added-money races in 1985.

The shooting star disappeared from her stellar racing career with a bad step in the Ballerina Stakes at Beulah Park while refusing to let Our Lucky Belle go as they approached the three-furlong marker. The misstep was catastrophic and track veterinarian Dr. Charles Kolb said there was no chance of saving her. Dr. Graver had a headstone created for his champion filly that was set in place to the right of the Beulah Park tote board over what was to be her final resting place. Years later, when Beulah Park was shuttered for good, Michael Blowen of Old Friends Farm in Georgetown, Ky., offered to have her remains and headstone placed at his farm alongside many of the other champions laid to rest there.

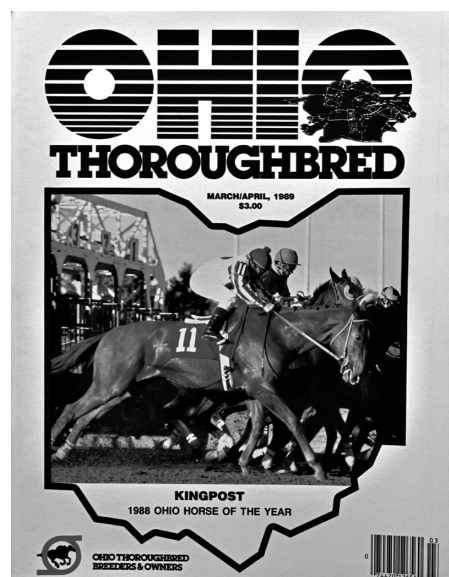
The heavy headstone was lifted, but after extensive digging in that area, any sign of Glacial Princess had disappeared like a fleeing gray banshee. The mystery remains.

## KINGPOST — THE AARDVARK THAT SET THE MONEY MARK

**K**ingpost was a Warnerton Farm homebred that made the most of his 3-year-old season to garner Horse of the Year and the Sophomore Male honors in 1988. He almost didn't race in the farm's colors during his career. Mark Warner tried to get \$10,000 for the ugly duckling, but had no takers. At 17.2 hands he towered over his contemporaries and had a fluid stride in his morning workouts, but sooner or later you had to look him in the eye—and there was the rub.

"His legs are correct structurally, but he looks like an aardvark," Warner was quoted. "Look at his nose. And his spine sticks right out of his back. You could filet him like a fish." Warner sent him to trainer Dianne Carpenter and she almost sent him back. "When Mark sent me this horse I called him and told him, 'Thanks for nothing.' When he walked off the van he looked OK, but he looked like a child," recalled Carpenter at the time.

Kingpost was a gelded son of Stalwart out of the Graustark mare Flaxen. Carpen-



Under Eugene Sipus Jr., the gangly chestnut gelding breaks from the gate at Turfway Park

ter took him through a competitive 3-year-old season that saw him make the most of one victory in 11 starts. He earned \$460,986 in 1988, a single-season money mark for an

Ohio-bred at the time. He also established a record for the richest victory by an Ohio-bred with his thrilling head decision over Stalwars and Brian's Time in the Grade 2, \$500,000 Jim Beam Stakes at Turfway Park. He followed that performance with a nose miss to Jim's Orbit in the Derby Trial-G3 at Churchill Downs and was sent out a week later in the Kentucky Derby-G1, but finished a lackluster 9½ lengths behind Winning Colors.

Three weeks later he ran fourth behind Seeking the Gold in the Grade 2 Peter Pan at Belmont Park and parlayed that effort into a distant second-place finish to Risen Star in the Belmont Stakes-G1. When he finished fourth in the July 2 Dwyer Stakes-G1 at Belmont, his \$13,704 share of the purse made him Ohio's all-time money earner, ending the 16-year reign of Royal Harmony. At the end of the year and his career, the aardvark-looking gelding had collected \$598,966. He was retired to Warner's farm in Ocala, Florida after sustaining a serious quarter crack in the Travers Stakes.



## TOUGALOO—THE LADY IS A CHAMP

She was Ohio's version of Winning Colors. A muscular gray athletic specimen of horseflesh that looked more like a colt of her generation than a filly. Tougaloo was a daughter of Lot o' Gold bred by her owner Landon Knight. She was out of Gleaming's daughter Bright Reply, who was crowned the state's Broodmare of the Year in 1989 for the outstanding performances of not only Tougaloo, but her half-sister Fat Emma (by Nodouble). Those two finished 1-2 in the Ohio Matron Handicap—with Fat Emma getting the best of her older and more accomplished sister.

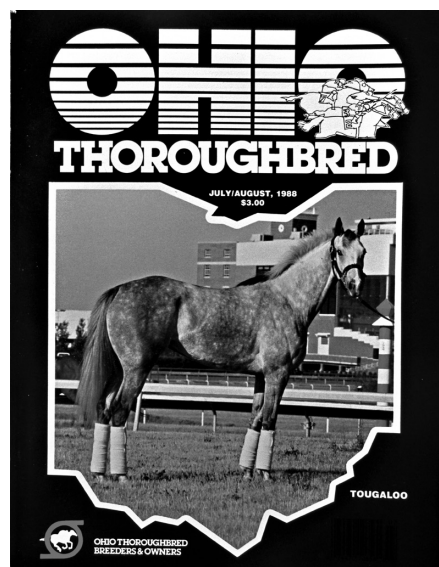
Tougaloo went out on top with a Horse of the Year award and Handicap Mare Championship in 1989, which set a new precedent as she became the first three-time winner of the Female Handicap Division. From 33 lifetime starts she compiled a 13-6-3 record for earnings of \$583,030, passing the old mark of Glacial Princess (\$542,792) who was twice voted Ohio

Horse of the Year. Tougaloo needed just \$15,803 to leap over Kingpost, but Knight was more interested in her health than records. She had some inflammation in her right pastern after winning her final race and Knight and trainer Sam Ramer took the conservative route and retired her.

Tougaloo College would miss her because Knight treated it like a jockey and a trainer. Whenever jockey Junior Rivera or trainer Sam Ramer collected their 10 percent of Tougaloo's earnings, Tougaloo College also got 10 percent.

"It's a predominately black school and a very good one," said Knight. "The majority of its graduates go on to become doctors and lawyers. I liked the name and have been sending them their 10 percent after every win. It's been a good deal for them and a lot of fun for me. I don't know when I've better spent money."

In addition to the almost \$60,000 Knight sent Tougaloo College, he also sent them



Tougaloo graced the cover of Ohio Thoroughbred and posed in front of her favorite track—Thistledown.

trophies and tapes. School President Dr. Adib Shakir and his wife Annette were Knight's guests to witness the school's namesake capture her third \$100,000 Rose DeBartolo Memorial in her final season of racing.

## HONEY JAY WAS OHIO'S SWEET STALLION

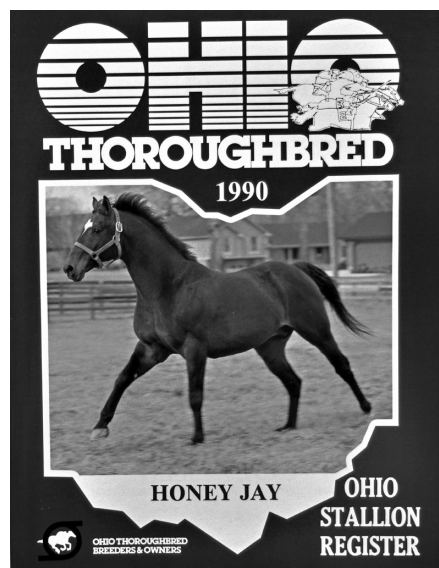
If you were watching a stakes race in Ohio in the late 1980s through the early '90s, odds-on there were one or more runners sired by Honey Jay in the race. While he started his career in Kentucky, Mrs. Robert Lehmann and her Golden Chance Farm agreed to move him to Ohio to Woodburn Farm in Centerville. The farm of choice was a perfect fit as it had already established itself as perhaps the top breeding farm in Ohio. Established by two past presidents of the O.T.B.O.—George Smith and Dr. Wilbur Johnston—the farm was home to stallions Brent's Prince, Grand Central, TeVega and Hy Frost.

They believed in their new stallion and supported him quite regularly with some of their best mares, and the results proved themselves out on the track. If you were at the races in those days, you saw him listed as the sire of numerous stakes horses. When he hit the Ohio scene, Honey Jay had already sired Grade 1 stakes winner Sweet Missus (\$310,587); Grade 2 winner Lotta Honey (\$219,216) and Charlie Coast (\$279,446). Familiar Ohio runners who earned over

\$100,000 were graded winner Sweet Audrey, Tall Meadows, The Fierce Look, Sparkling Jay, First Honey, Sweet Valentine and Sweet Rejoice from statistics compiled in 1989. You can adjust the monetary figures, but that was real money back in those days.

Honey Jay sported a pedigree of precociousness and soundness. His sire Double Jay was the Champion 2-year-old Colt of 1946 and went on to win numerous stakes among his 17 victories that earned him \$299,005—a mighty fine bankroll at the time. He sired 45 stakes winners including Doubledogdare, the champion 2 and 3-year-old in 1955 and 1956.

Honey Jay emulated his sire, though he did not race at 2. He made up for that the following season with 22 trips to post in 1971, recording seven wins and a stakes-placing. At 4 he made 19 starts, winning nine, and his two stakes victories included Keeneland's historic 6-panel Phoenix Handicap. At 5 he entered the gate 20 times and again won the Phoenix among his seven scores and had three stakes-placings. He retired with a record of 24-10-11 from 63 starts for earnings of \$223,853.



Honey Jay was Ohio's top stallion for six years.

In his final years he moved to Fair Winds Farm in Waynesville where he covered mares owned by Kim and Lori Williams and a few of their top clients. Upon his death he was buried on the farm, but his impact on Ohio racing continues to live on. He was the leading stallion in the state from 1988-1993.





## ROSCOE ZEE SLIDES INTO AN ECLIPSE AWARD

**I**t was a muggy overcast day in Cincinnati on Aug. 29, 1981. Overnight and morning rains left the main track soaked with a glaze of water on the surface. Back in those days the Racing Program and *Daily Racing Form* would designate horses that relished such conditions with a “mud mark”. It was certainly the kind of day you would seek out those horses before placing your bets.

Owner/trainer C.J. Mullins had one of those “mudder superiors” in his barn named Roscoe Zee and he deputized Bernon “Bernie” Saylor as the jockey. Saylor was an old-school rider who sported a nose shaped by many a break. Always at or near the top of the jockey standings at River Downs and Latonia, he had plenty of experience sailing steeds through a quagmire over surfaces impacted by summer storms or harsh winters.

His experience led to seek the most solid footing for Roscoe Zee in the 5th race that day at River Downs, and while it meant losing ground he elected to take the overland route rather than chance it in the deep waters along the rail. He took the lead at the furlong marker in the 1-mile and 70 yards event and appeared destined for an easy win aboard his 7-1 shot until just yards before the finish line... and so the story begins.

In the blink of an eye, Roscoe Zee dropped to his belly, legs outreached and

as if on a child’s Slip ‘N Slide, created a wave of mud that splashed feet into the air and, while the horse’s motion came to an abrupt stop—Saylor’s did not. Thrown forward from the saddle, the veteran rider appeared, for the briefest of moments, to be surfing on the horse’s neck across the finish with reins and whip still in hand. The horse instinctively dug his hooves through the softened top surface and when they hit the clay base Saylor was shot face first to the sea of slop.

The large Saturday crowd was silenced momentarily and then broke into a roar of applause and cheers as horse and rider rose to their feet. Roscoe Zee galloped away before being caught by an outrider and Saylor removed his goggles and surveyed the scene. Here is where the ending of the story begins to differ. From my vantage point just behind the box seats in the wooden grandstand, Saylor looked down at the track, still ankle deep to his boots, and then back at the finish line he had crossed. He raised his head up to the stewards stand and with his right arm pointed to the spot they had just crossed, and with his left arm extended his finger as if to signal, “We finished first!”

After examining the replay and observing the photo finish of the race, it could be seen that Saylor, still with whip and reins in his clenched fist, had his boot in contact with Roscoe Zee’s neck. By

racing rules, a rider must be in contact with his mount when they cross the finish line. That toe of Saylor’s boot met the criteria and the “Official” lights on the tote board were lit. The mud encrusted jockey and horse were reunited in the winner’s circle for their official photo.

The “other” ending to the story? I had made my way down the steps and to the rail before the race was made official and asked some familiar faces what they saw and heard. According to the railbirds, their version of the story was a bit different than what I observed from above. “That Saylor is one tough S.O.B.,” an on-looker spoke. “He got up and looked at the ground and saw a gap that the track trucks had left that his horse hit. He was pointing to it and shaking his fist at the stewards shouting ‘They gotta fix this s\*\*t before somebody gets killed. We still won the f\*#\*ing race!’” The finger I believed was indicating he was number 1 was actually his middle finger, indicating something very much different.

Hours later, in the dim of his dark-room, photographer Tom Baker saw the image he captured come slowly to life in the developer. It showed clearly that Saylor had control of the horse and his boot was ever so slightly touching Roscoe Zee’s neck. Baker submitted his photo at year’s end, and it was voted the national Eclipse Award for photography in 1981. Believe whichever ending you choose, but it truly was an exceptional moment in Ohio racing history. — John Engelhardt

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## PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**  
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**  
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**  
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**  
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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## A message from PHBA Executive Secretary Brian Sanfratello

Dear Breeders,

During this unprecedented time my wish is that you and your families stay healthy and safe. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to a semi-normal lifestyle soon.

Many of you have asked when racing will begin again. Unfortunately, I don't have the answer to that question. Governor Wolf will determine when racing will receive the green light. After racing has been cleared, the racetracks will determine their timetables. It is still unsure whether racing will begin all at once or if the tracks will open according to color zones initiated by the Governor. What I can tell you is that we have been working diligently with the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition which is made up of Horsemen and Breeding organizations, both Thoroughbred and Standardbred, to convince the Governor to open racing. I can also tell you that protocols are in place so that racing will quickly resume when able.

I have also been asked what the program will look like when racing begins. The PHBA has begun discussions with the Horsemen on the various purse structures that will be implemented at the tracks. Each group has a different idea on where they want to be when that time comes. Please rest assured that we will leave no stone unturned to make sure we do the best we can until our funding is back to normal. Remember, when normalcy returns, and it will, Pennsylvania will continue to be the only place to Breed and Race.

As you are aware, Northview PA will be closing on Nov. 30 and consolidating everything in Maryland. I'd like to thank Richard Golden



and his staff for providing Pennsylvania with premier stallions such as Jump Start and for their tremendous service over the last 11 years. Northview has helped us rise to one of the best breeding states in the country. As mentioned in their press release, this will have no effect on the balance of the 2020 breeding season and it is also our hope that a buyer for the farm will carry on in their footsteps. The PHBA wishes them the best of luck in the future.

Our Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for May 29 at the Mendenhall Inn has been cancelled but we won't forget the winners! Keep an eye out for our virtual awards ceremony that will be held sometime in June.

Thank you and stay safe!

/Brian Sanfratello



# PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through March 31, 2020

## LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

| Breeder Name                    | Breeder | Stallion | Total  | Breeder Name            | Breeder | Stallion | Total  |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|-------------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Northview Stallion Station Inc. | 0       | 84,658   | 84,658 | Arrowwood Farm Inc.     | 25,256  | 0        | 25,256 |
| William J. Solomon VMD          | 43,482  | 22,541   | 66,022 | Robert C. Roffey Jr.    | 24,476  | 0        | 24,476 |
| Fantasy Lane Stable Inc.        | 44,176  | 11,044   | 55,220 | Flint W. Stites         | 16,974  | 5,912    | 22,886 |
| Richard N. Miller               | 40,054  | 8,136    | 48,190 | Stacy McMullin Machiz   | 21,509  | 0        | 21,509 |
| Thomas G. McClay                | 47,899  | 0        | 47,899 | Roger Cettina           | 21,104  | 0        | 21,104 |
| Blackstone Farm LLC             | 46,709  | 0        | 46,709 | Barlar LLC              | 15,098  | 5,810    | 20,907 |
| Glenn E. Brok LLC               | 26,083  | 17,093   | 43,176 | Castle Rock Farm        | 20,879  | 0        | 20,879 |
| Patricia L. Chapman             | 26,226  | 8,996    | 35,222 | Richard Molineaux       | 20,668  | 0        | 20,668 |
| Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC        | 30,584  | 0        | 30,584 | A & J Racing Stable LLC | 20,608  | 0        | 20,608 |
| Spring Run Farm LLC             | 30,049  | 0        | 30,049 | Wendy H. Mutnick        | 20,144  | 0        | 20,144 |
| Donald L. Brown Jr.             | 23,478  | 5,594    | 29,072 | Barbara J. Geraghty     | 18,912  | 0        | 18,912 |
| Sylmar Farm Inc.                | 28,856  | 0        | 28,856 | Michael R. Cox          | 18,583  | 0        | 18,583 |

## LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

| Stallion Name     | Stallion Owner / Manager        | No. of Races | Award Total | Stallion Name       | Stallion Owner / Manager        | No. of Races | Award Total |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Jump Start        | Northview Stallion Station Inc. | 124          | 45,286      | Petionville         | Everest Stables Inc.            | 12           | 6,006       |
| El Padrino        | Northview Stallion Station Inc. | 51           | 29,954      | Reflect Times (Jpn) | Flint W. Stites                 | 13           | 5,912       |
| Albert the Great  | William J. Solomon VMD          | 37           | 14,064      | E Dubai             | Barlar LLC                      | 10           | 5,810       |
| Uptowncharlybrown | Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC      | 18           | 11,928      | Messner             | Donald L. Brown Jr.             | 5            | 5,594       |
| Partner's Hero    | Peter Giangulio                 | 17           | 9,682       | Tocet               | Castleton Lyons Inc.            | 4            | 5,276       |
| Talent Search     | Glenn E. Brok LLC               | 30           | 9,406       | Medallist           | Northview Stallion Station Inc. | 12           | 5,208       |
| Smarty Jones      | Patricia L. Chapman             | 38           | 8,996       | Wiseman's Ferry     | Lainey Bug Stables LLC          | 4            | 5,152       |
| Weigelia          | Wyn Oaks Farm LLC               | 52           | 7,410       | Well Spelled        | Godstone Farm LP                | 26           | 4,599       |
| Winchill          | Pewter Stable                   | 10           | 6,524       | Any Given Saturday  | William J. Solomon VMD          | 24           | 4,024       |
| Emperor Tiberius  | Richard N. Miller               | 4            | 6,240       | Silver Train        | Henry R. Nothhaft               | 10           | 3,704       |
| Rimrod            | George Strawbridge Jr.          | 10           | 6,174       | Fairbanks           | Northview Stallion Station Inc. | 14           | 2,688       |
| Mad Flatter       | Glenn E. Brok LLC               | 21           | 6,055       | Flashy Bull         | James E. Hess                   | 9            | 2,373       |

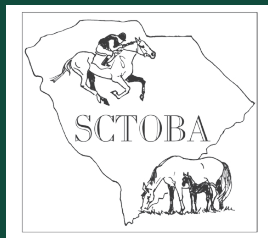
## LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

| Horse                | Pedigree                              | Breeder                  | Races | Restricted | Stakes | Breeder Award | Stallion Award | Owner Bonus | Total  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------|--------|
| E T's Gypsy Woman *  | Emperor Tiberius - Deona              | Richard N. Miller        | 2     | 0          | 0      | 28,740        | 6,240          | 10,800      | 45,780 |
| Wait for It *        | Uptowncharlybrown - Kimberley Diamond | Fantasy Lane Stable Inc. | 2     | 0          | 0      | 22,064        | 5,516          | 15,760      | 43,340 |
| Peach Alley *        | Jump Start - How Bout Tonight         | Thomas G. McClay         | 4     | 0          | 0      | 21,644        | 5,411          | 15,460      | 42,515 |
| Wise Jude *          | Wiseman's Ferry - Sweet as You Are    | A & J Racing Stable LLC  | 2     | 0          | 0      | 20,608        | 5,152          | 14,720      | 40,480 |
| Promised Storm *     | El Padrino - Innovative               | Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC | 3     | 0          | 0      | 22,352        | 5,588          | 11,280      | 39,220 |
| Admiral Abe          | Midshipman - Precious Penny           | James Walker             | 3     | 0          | 0      | 14,392        | 0              | 20,560      | 34,952 |
| Graves Island *      | Petionville - Sherrie Belle           | Robert C. Roffey Jr.     | 4     | 0          | 0      | 20,108        | 5,027          | 9,220       | 34,355 |
| Final Shot *         | Talent Search - Last Shot             | Wendy H. Mutnick         | 3     | 0          | 0      | 20,144        | 5,036          | 7,360       | 32,540 |
| Red Razzo *          | Tocet - High Iron Lass                | Roger Cettina            | 4     | 0          | 0      | 21,104        | 5,276          | 6,160       | 32,540 |
| Mess'n Around *      | Messner - She Is a Lioness            | Donald L. Brown Jr.      | 1     | 0          | 0      | 16,464        | 4,116          | 11,760      | 32,340 |
| Flashy Kyem *        | Medallist - Flash Riot                | Daniel W. McConnell Sr.  | 3     | 0          | 0      | 15,680        | 3,920          | 11,200      | 30,800 |
| Geebert *            | Albert The Great - Gee Pari           | Richard Molineaux        | 3     | 0          | 0      | 16,464        | 3,612          | 10,320      | 30,396 |
| Sunday Inn *         | El Padrino - Dynamist                 | Patricia L. Chapman      | 1     | 0          | 0      | 15,456        | 3,864          | 11,040      | 30,360 |
| You Must Chill *     | Winchill - Only Me                    | Mark Brown Grier         | 1     | 0          | 0      | 15,456        | 3,864          | 11,040      | 30,360 |
| Lucky Hero *         | Partner's Hero - Leigh's Last Power   | Barbara J. Geraghty      | 2     | 0          | 0      | 18,912        | 4,728          | 6,480       | 30,120 |
| Late Breaking News * | Jump Start - Very Distinctive         | Stacy McMullin Machiz    | 3     | 0          | 0      | 14,621        | 3,655          | 8,892       | 27,168 |
| Broad Street Bully * | El Padrino - Broad Gale               | Spring Run Farm LLC      | 3     | 0          | 0      | 18,176        | 4,544          | 3,360       | 26,080 |
| Tale of E Dubai *    | E Dubai - Lady's Tale                 | M A T Stables LLC        | 3     | 0          | 0      | 12,768        | 3,192          | 9,120       | 25,080 |
| Madam Meena          | Include - Good Tidings                | Michael R. Cox           | 4     | 0          | 0      | 12,384        | 0              | 10,920      | 23,304 |
| Miss Dillingham *    | Jump Start - Dillingham               | Thomas G. McClay         | 2     | 0          | 0      | 15,648        | 3,912          | 3,360       | 22,920 |
| Cat Giumarello       | Successful Appeal - Passionate Dancer | Andrew Simoff            | 2     | 0          | 0      | 8,736         | 0              | 12,480      | 21,216 |
| Diagonal *           | Rimrod - Pass the Salt                | R H Breeding LLC         | 3     | 0          | 0      | 13,808        | 3,074          | 4,320       | 21,202 |
| Her Divineness       | Divine Park - Big Shot Baby           | Big Shot Stable LLC      | 2     | 0          | 0      | 8,400         | 0              | 12,000      | 20,400 |
| Dreams Untold        | Smarty Jones - Shootforthestars       | Patricia L. Chapman      | 1     | 0          | 0      | 9,450         | 0              | 10,800      | 20,250 |

\*Denotes PA-sired





# South Carolina

## Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



## Congratulations Mike Keogh

**M**ike Keogh, who, with his wife, Lou, has spent several winters in Aiken, has been elected into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Keogh was the longtime trainer for the late Gustav Schickedanz, whose family owns Longleaf Plantation just outside of Aiken.

Among the numerous stakes winners Keogh has developed over the years are 2003 Canadian Triple Crown winner

Wando, 1999 Queen's Plate winner Woodcarver, and Langfuhr, a three-time Grade 1 winner including the 1997 Metropolitan Handicap at Belmont Park.

The millionaire Mobile, and other graded winners that include Last Answer, Go Bro, City Boy, Clever Response and Kathie's Colleen also reached stardom under Keogh's care. During his career to date, he has 330

wins, 60 of them stakes, and his stable has earned \$21.5 million.

Schickedanz, Keogh's major client for many years, was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2009 and received the E.P. Taylor Award recognizing his lifelong dedication to racing in Canada in 2018. The longtime supporter of the Aiken Trials died in June 2019.





Ron Madden's Jellicoe Creek Farm colt by Jess's Dream out of Wildheartsneverdie by Gators N Bears born March 18.



## Racing Across the Nation

We are thankful for Gulfstream Park, Oaklawn Park, Remington Park, Tampa Bay, Fonner Park and Los Alamitos to have been able to conduct racing since the middle of March.

While the opportunities to run in stakes races has been limited, we do congratulate Social Paranoia for capturing the Appleton Stakes-G3 at Gulfstream Park March 28. Social

Paranoia had not raced since last September.

Trailing the field last of 12 in the opening 6 furlongs, more than a dozen lengths back, the 4-year-old colt swung to the extreme outside on the far turn and flew down the stretch to win by 1¼ lengths in 1:32.81 for the mile on the turf. Social Paranoia was prepared for his racing career by Donna Freyer at her Custom Care Equine facility in Camden.

## On the Legislative Front

SCTOBA and Mike Daniel of The Southern Group in Columbia have been working together. A bill has been presented to the State House to tackle the issue of how our training centers and equine industry can rebound and regain the role it has played over the years in South Carolina.

The bill has had a reading in the House. Due to the coronavirus outbreak,

things have pretty much come to a halt in Columbia.

The legislature did meet in Columbia April 8 to discuss budget matters and propose a continuing resolution which will outline what will be discussed when the Legislature is able to reconvene.

Arch Kingsley and Bill Price welcome the birth of a New York-bred Munnings colt out of Judy's Chance, by First Dude, in February.

## SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

| Horse              | Training Center              | Date    | Track             | Type of Race          |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Rough Passage      | Kirkwood Stables             | 4/19/20 | Los Alamitos      | Claiming              |
| Goodbye Brockley   | Custom Care - Donna Freyer   | 4/18/20 | Gulfstream Park   | Allowance             |
| Dyn                | Aiken - Cary Frommer         | 4/12/20 | Gulfstream Park   | Maiden claiming       |
| He's a Babe        | Elloree Training Center      | 4/11/20 | Gulfstream Park   | Maiden claiming       |
| Hidden Promise     | Webb Carroll Training Center | 4/9/20  | Oaklawn Park      | Maiden claiming       |
| Spa Shackalacka    | Webb Carroll Training Center | 4/6/20  | Fonner Park       | Claiming              |
| Lucky Betty        | Webb Carroll Training Center | 4/4/20  | Oaklawn Park      | Maiden special weight |
| Dukes Up           | Webb Carroll Training Center | 4/3/20  | Oaklawn Park      | Claiming              |
| Facts Don't Matter | Custom Care - Donna Freyer   | 3/28/20 | Tampa Bay Downs   | Claiming              |
| Getridofwhataileu  | Custom Care - Donna Freyer   | 3/28/20 | Oaklawn Park      | Allowance             |
| Malibeauty         | Webb Carroll Training Center | 3/28/20 | Tampa Bay Downs   | Maiden special weight |
| SOCIAL PARANOIA    | Custom Care - Donna Freyer   | 3/28/20 | Gulfstream Park   | Appleton S-G3         |
| Uncail             | Elloree Training Center      | 3/24/20 | Will Rogers Downs | Allowance             |
| May Flowers        | Webb Carroll Training Center | 3/23/20 | Fonner Park       | Claiming              |
| She's a Dime       | Aiken - Cary Frommer         | 3/22/20 | Oaklawn Park      | Claiming              |
| Flirty             | Aiken - Legacy Stable        | 3/21/20 | Turfway Park      | Claiming              |





# VIRGINIA



The second Colonial Downs thoroughbred season under new ownership hopes to get out of the gate July 23.

## Colonial Downs Stall Applications Now Available

The Colonial Downs summer meet in New Kent is still scheduled to run from July 23 - August 29, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 5:30 PM. The season itself, like most other events, is conditioned on Governor Northam's "reopening the economy plans" which are still quite fluid. Proposed opening of the backstretch area is July 9. Stall applications are now available on line at [www.colonialdowns.com](http://www.colonialdowns.com). For the latest details in coming days, visit Colonial's website and [www.virginiahorseracing.com](http://www.virginiahorseracing.com).

## 108 First Quarter Bonus Winners In Virginia-Certified Bonus Program Initiative

Chowda, a 3-year-old Virginia-Certified colt, was one of 108 horses to win a VTA residency bonus award in the first quarter of 2020. The New York bred earned a capped reward of \$10,000 --- highest of any --- from a victory in the \$100,000 Gander Stakes (black-type) at Aqueduct. The Gary Sciacca trainee is 2-for-2 this year and overall, has bankrolled \$142,793 from six starts. He scored at Aqueduct previously in a January allowance race and earned a \$9,240 reward. Out of the Chief Seattle mare, Salty Lil Sis, Chowda is owned by Eddie F's Racing. The Emcee colt spent six months at Woodberry Payne's Ingleside Training Center before he started competing.

Next biggest award went to New York bred Moonlight Now, a 4-year-old Tiznow gelding. His \$8,250 bonus came from a \$60,000 maiden special weight win at Aqueduct February 20. Moonlight Now is out of Moonlightandbeauty by Capote and is owned by Albert Fried, Jr. He spent his Virginia residency at Paula Parsons' Centennial Farms in Middleburg.

Wild Banker collected an identical reward via a similar \$60,000 maiden special weight race at Aqueduct January 24. The New York bred, owned by Michael Dini and Al Moorehouse, is an Eagle Point Farm (Karen Godsey, Ashland) graduate.

Maryland-bred Follow The Dog won a \$53,000 allowance race by a head over Hero's Hope January 9 at Laurel and bankrolled a \$6,250 reward. Owned by Waldorf Racing Stables and trained by Phil Schoenthal, the 4-year-old Bandbox colt earned his third program bonus and first of 2020.

He won the Maryland Million Nursery Stakes in 2018. Follow The Dog resided at Ingleside for six months prior to his first start.

Of the six other horses that earned an award over \$5,000, four are New York-breds. Bassman Dave, a 4-year-old Big Brown gelding, won a \$36,000 allowance race February 28 while Left Leaning Lucy, a 3-year-old The Lumber Guy filly, took a \$41,000 maiden claimer February 21. Abraxan, a 4-year-old Forty Tales filly, was best in a \$36,000 claimer February 2 and Fair Lassie, a 4-year-old Dublin filly, reached the winners circle in a \$37,000 claimer March 27.

All the triumphs came at Aqueduct. The first two were raised at Ingleside while the latter two were at Brooke Royster's Chance Farm and Jean Rofe's Racing at Rokeby.

The final two are respective Kentucky and West Virginia-breds. Always Something, a 3-year-old Oxbow filly who captured a maiden special weight at Colonial Downs last August, won a \$49,000 allowance March 9 at Laurel. Chiefs Kingdom, a 4-year-old Our Entourage filly, was best in the \$35,000 Valentines Day Overnight Stakes at Charles Town on February 14. Their residencies were spent at Horseshoe Hill and Eagle Point Farms respectively.

Of the 108 wins by Certified horses in the first quarter, 18 came at Laurel, 18 at Penn National, 12 at Aqueduct, 1 at Parx and the balance at Charles Town. A Virginia-Certified horse is one that is registered by The Jockey Club, conceived and foaled outside of Virginia but maintains residency in Virginia for at least a six month consecutive period prior to December 31 of its two-year-old year.

For more information on the program and a list of participating farms/training centers, visit [vabred.org](http://vabred.org).



Virginia-Certified colt Chowda prevails in the \$100,000 Gander Stakes at Aqueduct. Photo by Adam Coglianese.





Glenwood Park hopes to play host to the 100th running of the Middleburg Spring Races June 13.



Doug Fout, Chairman of the Middleburg Spring Races, is shown at Glenwood Park.

## Middleburg Spring Races Hoping its 100th Running Takes Place June 13, Without Spectators

The Covid-19 pandemic has played havoc with Virginia's spring steeplechase event schedule. The Virginia Gold Cup at Great Meadow, originally set for May 2, has now been rescheduled for June 27, without spectators.

Virginia's oldest steeplechase meet --- the Middleburg Spring Races --- was set to have its 100th running April 18 at picturesque Glenwood Park. That date has changed twice and is now slated for June 13, without spectators as well. At press time, both events were still awaiting final word from the Governor if they can move forward.

Doug Fout has been Middleburg's Spring Race Chairman for 17 years and is carrying on a legacy started by his late father Paul, who was Past President, Chairman and GM of the Spring Races. The property encompasses 112 acres and the grass course is 1 1/4 miles. Spectators enjoy a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background.

Under Fout's direction, Middleburg has gone from a Class D course to a Class A venue. "I was born and raised on this course," he said. "I've enjoyed the transition and am amazed how much it has changed over the years. At one time, the head trustee used to have cattle based on the property and only moved them off ten days before the races so we could mow the grass before horses arrived."

Attendance averages between 6,800 and 7,200 by design. "It's a boutique meet and we don't cater to big crowds. We have a quality crowd that comes in smaller groups and actually enjoys watching the races while they tailgate. No matter where you stand or sit, you'll have a great view of the course all the way around," he added. "And that goes for people that

pay \$15 for a ticket as well as for major sponsors that might pay \$10,000 or \$15,000."

Featured annual race is the \$75,000 Temple Gwathmey, a Grade 2 hurdle stakes which has been contested at Glenwood since 1990. Another staple is the Alfred Hunt Steeplethon which is two miles, five furlongs in length and held over various fences and obstacles like ditches, banks, brush, timber, coops and water. The "fanciful" course was designed by Doug's father and Tommy Beach.

Fout currently trains 24 horses at his farm in The Plains, conveniently located just ten minutes from Glenwood Park. Proximity between the farm and Glenwood is key. "I stay busy," he said. "I'm always running horses and still try to get up to Glenwood two or three times a week. Sometimes I'll even work there all weekend."

Fout gets emotional when he thinks about the effort his father put in to Glenwood Park and the efforts he continues to make to bring it to another level. "I just have a ton of pride in this place," he said. "I'm trying to follow in my father's footsteps to make the course better each year and have a bigger purse structure. My father's dream was to see this upgraded and he saw it 90 percent of the way through. I just wish he could see it today."

### Virginia Thoroughbred Association

President: Gillian Gordon-Moore Vice President: Susan Cooney Treasurer: Amy Moore Past President: Brooke Royster

Directors: A. Ferris Allen, III, James Arrison, Wayne Chatfield-Taylor, Donna Dennehy, Jim Fitzgerald, Dr. Alfred C. Griffin, Jr., Ellen Kill Kelly, Turner Kobayashi, Chris Kuhn, Robin Mellen, Cynthia Curtis, Wayne VanSant



Visit [www.vabred.org](http://www.vabred.org)—the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news

For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

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# West Virginia

## THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

June 2020

### The Next Generation

By Jeff Gilleas

The coronavirus has amended our daily existence at the racetrack and potentially crippled a way of life; yet on breeding farms, the most substantive time of the year cannot be bureaucratically negated or placed on administrative furlough.

As humans, we react to the present alarming circumstances by cloaking our faces in protective apparel and implementing social distancing with utmost importance.

In the animal kingdom, equine mothers nuzzle their foals, drawing them alongside to provide emotional support and physical sustenance.

I have reached out to friends and colleagues, via text, for a brief overview of what I'll describe as "procreation amid pandemic."

**Nicole and Ronney Brown** have teamed up to run a thriving racing operation and this year formulated a substantive plan of attack to capitalize on the West Virginia breeding program.

One of the centerpiece runners in the Brown Stable legacy was Original Gold. The daughter of Slavic—Goldendeoro, by Alydeed,

was a two-time winner of the coveted WV "Cavada" Breeders Classic Stakes and earned \$372,649 during her 17-race career.

This month, the 20-year-old "Queen" of the Brown family farm delivered a handsome colt by their late sire, Exclusive Quality. The new arrival is a half-brother to stakes-placed Golden Debutante.

My favorite of the photos sent by Nicole is a classy-looking individual by Cloud Computing and the first foal for Intoxicating Belle (by Stay Thirsty). Cloud Computing was sparingly raced, and had just two wins, but one was the 2017 Preakness Stakes.

Since his graduation from Fresno State College, **Dennis Bybee** has studied, bred and raised horses with an emphasis on pedigree. He currently stands Three Chopt Road and recent additions Monster Mash, Aaron's Way and Despite the Odds.

Dennis is particularly proud of these recent foals: Appealing Road, a filly by Three Chopt Road out of Little Miss Kisses born March 17, whom Dennis hopes will carry on the tradition of her mother, winner of 16

racers and \$237,081; and Lucky Bop, a daughter of Madefromlucky out of stakes-placed Beboppin Betty, an earner of \$155,735. He is awaiting 12 more foals, many by his young stallions.

**John C. Carlisle and Mary Bauer** are spending a lot of quality time at home with their three girls, as schools in Jefferson County are suspended until further notice. In the interim, the girls are receiving an invaluable lesson in animal biology. This is the first year the couple has foaled at their farm and Chris's primary interest is a filly born April 5, by Gormley out of Two Stonesrbettor.

"Gormley raced predominantly on the West Coast, winning the Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby and stands at Spendthrift farm. Mary and the girls have their own favorites. They are rooting for a nice Afleet Alex, Stormy's Majesty and a couple of Redesdale foals," according to Chris.

With no live racing Chris is worried about financially keeping things afloat. For now he says, "we are stronger together and the kids can get inspiration through nature."

#### West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Mailing address: P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-6868 • Fax: (304) 724-7870 • Web site: [www.wvtba.net](http://www.wvtba.net)

Office location: 110 South George St., Ste. 4, Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours: 10-2 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

John Funkhouser, *President*

Diana McClure, *Secretary*

Mark Sell, *Vice-President*

Clissy Funkhouser, *Treasurer*

**Directors:** Dennis Bybee, Nancy Camp, James W. Casey, Javier Contreras, Dennis Finger, Karen Freer, Sandra Witherow



**Leslie Condon** is an energetic horsewoman who has done everything in her power during her career to serve and protect her beloved West Virginia Thoroughbred industry. Tireless hours at the racetrack, countless sleepless nights during foaling season and an innumerable amount of time spent in service to the CTHBPA.

Leslie eagerly welcomed a Smarty Jones filly out of On the Rail, which just happens to be a full sister to Onthestraitanarrow. On the Rail earned over \$200,000 at the racetrack, while Onthestraitanarrow, owned and trained by Leslie, has been her stable rock, bankrolling \$158,998.

When you peruse the annals of distaff greatness in the Mountain State, a number of powerful memories come to mind. Add to the mix the names of **John Casey** and **Kristy Petty** and instantaneously visions of millionaire Down Town Allen materialize. For years, the couple lived a dream with their multi-dimension homebred and, since her passing, have watched two very useful fillies (Romantic Cork and Jacky's Notion), try to replicate her importance. This year, the multiple stakes winners will try and step out of the shadow of Down Town Allen through their first offspring, a Windsor Castle colt born March 30 and a Juba colt born April 19, respectively.

Kristy also alerted me to the fact that for sweet-tooth lovers Candy One, the dam of four stakes performers, dropped a good-looking Windsor Castle colt March 11. He's a full brother to three-time stakes winner and \$485,195-earner Greenway Court and stakes-placed Candy Man One.

If one set out to design the optimum stallion, what criteria would be inherent in his DNA? Speed, stamina, disposition, soundness?

**John and Cynthia McKee** have found all of the above in their 2019 Stallion of the Year, Fiber Sonde.

John and Cyndy will try to turn water into wine this year with some of these attractive youngsters: Fiber Sonde—Safe At First filly (born April 8), Great Notion—Cat Thats Grey filly (March 1), Fiber Sonde—Vince's Valentina colt (Feb. 5) and a Great Notion colt out of multiple stakes winner Aye a Song born Feb. 17. Aye a Song had a prolific 2-year-old season in 2015, capturing the Rachel's Turn, West Virginia Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic, West Virginia Futurity and Eleanor Casey Memorial Stakes. This is her first foal.

Trainer **Elizabeth Meehan** is hard-working, opinionated and totally dedicated to her family and horses. Together with her husband Jason (blacksmith), they cover the gamut from the nose to the toes, while carving out a strong niche in the local racing/breeding community. A Jump Start mare she campaigned for five seasons and considers to be her all-time favorite, Love Is Love, had a filly recently by Blofeld, a son of Quality Road.

This should prove to be a rare sight in the Meehan Stable, as this filly is a striking chestnut with a substantial white blaze, quite a contrast to the run of Fiber Sonde offspring she's campaigned and their distinctive gray/roan markings.

If Francis of Assisi (patron saint of animals) was subbing for Saint Peter and met me at the pearly gates,

who is one person I could use for a reference to gain admittance? I chose animal lover extraordinaire, **Amanda Moro**.

When foaling approximately 50 mares, there is always the opportunity for problems. This year was no exception, but Amanda credits phenomenal owners, barn help and veterinarians who turned tragedy into triumph. She is particularly proud of a colt by Buffum out of Silver Star, a tenacious colt by Bandbox out of I Can See, and a filly by Tapiture out of Dandy Candy.

It would be much appreciated if friends of Amanda would check in on her. After a freak accident on the farm, she ended up in the Trauma Unit at Fairfax County Hospital. She is home now, but still in considerable pain.

In the midst of the National Football League draft, talking heads repeatedly drew upon the theme of "generational talent". One local family affirms this concept. Strong, tenacious, earthy, horses and racing is clearly spelled out in their name.

**Tabitha Brady**, daughter of Vicki Stehr, responded to my appeal for knowledge and provided the following insight.

"We kicked off the 2020 foaling season with a filly by our newest stallion, Saratoga Syndicate. She is out of the allowance-producing mare, Prospective Peace. Saratoga Syndicate's first foals arrive this year. He is the only son of Medaglia d'Oro standing in West Virginia."

Tabitha Brady and Joe Stehr copy the time honored tradition of horsemanship handed down by Hank and Betty Stehr.

## NOTES TO MEMBERS

- ◆ **The 10-10-10 program** is now called the **Supplemental Purse Award Claim**, for which there are new forms. All claims must be submitted to the WV Racing Commission within 15 days from the date the purse is awarded. Claim forms are available on the WV Racing Commission website, [racing.wv.gov](http://racing.wv.gov).
- ◆ If you are selling or planning to sell your accredited WV-bred and/or sired horse, please contact the WVTBA. The WVTBA has started supplying sellers of **accredited WV-bred and/or sired horses** with **hip stickers and stall-card stickers** to make it easier for buyers to identify these horses. Contact the WVTBA office at (304) 728-6868 or by e-mail at [wvbreeders@gmail.com](mailto:wvbreeders@gmail.com).
- ◆ **WV Certificates** will be issued seven to 10 days after the WVTBA receives the original registration form application, all required paperwork and payment.
- ◆ The new WVTBA office is located at 110 South George Street, Suite 4, Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. More information may be found at [www.wvtba.net](http://www.wvtba.net).



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## MISCELLANEOUS

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# Looking Back

## 75 years ago

■ Maryland was well prepared to return to racing after Fred M. Vinson, director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, gave the go-ahead to resume May 9. Seven days later the state's spring season kicked off at Pimlico. The meet was shortened, "so as not to conflict with the regular dates of other courses in this vicinity," most notably Delaware Park, which would hold a 30-day meet starting May 29.

"Maryland's horsemen have always regarded nearby Delaware Park as almost a home state track and the majority of them race there year after year," *The Maryland Horse* noted, adding that officials had been handicapped in the matter of Delaware's stakes closing dates, not wanting to clash in any way with the Preakness date. Further complicating things was that Delaware Park's racing secretary Eddie Brennan worked at Pimlico as well. Pimlico's stakes day in June was chosen in order to "preserve the continuity of the running of the three races which comprise America's famed Triple Crown series."



With the Preakness, Dixie, Pimlico Oaks, Pimlico Nursery and Jennings Handicap on one card, "Never before in Maryland has so much money been offered horsemen in one afternoon."

■ Kenneth N. Gilpin, president of Fasig-Tipton Company, announced that approximately 145 yearlings had been entered for the annual sale Aug. 7-9 at the Meadow Brook Club in Westbury, N.Y., where it had been the previous two years.

■ Joseph F. Flanagan was named president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, after long-standing president Janon Fisher Jr. asked to be removed from the nominations. Flanagan farmed, hunted and bred horses—the most famous top steeplechaser Elkridge—in Harford County for more than 20 years, was a steward at Delaware Park and Laurel, and "one of the foremost judges of bloodstock in the country."

At the MHBA's annual meeting in Baltimore, guest speaker J.A. Estes remarked on the "need for a first-class public relations set-up to cover breeding and racing on a national scale." Nine days later Flanagan appointed a committee, headed by Janon Fisher, chairman, Henry Parr and Goss Stryker, to look into the matter.

## 10 years ago

■ Virginia-bred Researcher became the first horse to earn \$1 million in Charles Town purses with his second consecutive score in the Charles Town Classic. The 6-year-old gelded son of the late Virginia sire Two Smart expanded his bankroll to \$1,377,629, more than \$1.15 million earned at his home track. But new owner Zohar Ben-Dov (Kinross Corporation), who purchased Researcher the week before the Classic from the family of late owner Hermen Greenberg, had a career change in mind—that as a steeplechaser. Wrote editor Lucy Acton: "It's a surprising move. . . But it also stands as one of the most *sporting* decisions this region has seen in quite some time."

*Researcher lost all six starts over hurdles, but retired to Kinross Farm in Virginia.*

■ The Mid-Atlantic was becoming a test zone for racing's endurance with the advent of Las Vegas-style table games at Delaware Park, Charles Town, Philadelphia Park and Penn National.

"The more table games are added, the more of an impact there will be on slots,"



**Researcher defended his title in the Charles Town Classic, becoming a millionaire in the process.**

said Dr. Richard Thalheimer, president of Thalheimer Research Associates and a former professor of equine business at the University of Louisville. His statistical studies showed that pari-mutuel wagering declined when additional forms of gambling were introduced at tracks.

■ Lucy Goelet's first racehorse, Twill Do, scored a 5-length victory in the Maryland Hunt Cup with rider James Stierhoff getting his first career win. Stierhoff was subbing for trainer Billy Meister, the

three-time Hunt Cup-winner who was on crutches after breaking his pelvis a week earlier at the Grand National.

■ Robert Gerczak and Kaygar Stable's Baltimore Bob, a 5-year-old son of Malibu Moon with five stakes placings to his credit, broke through with his first stakes victory in Pimlico's Henry S. Clark. He was trained by J.B. Secor, who took over the stable of Carlos Garcia when the latter retired in January. Secor also sent out former Garcia trainee Jim's Prospect to win the Wide Country. "I hadn't won two stakes in 20 years," said Secor, "and now I win two stakes in two months. I like it much better this way."

■ Veteran Banjo Picker was retired at age 10 after 52 starts, 16 wins, eight seconds, seven thirds, and earnings of \$648,865. Owned by Danny Limongelli and trained by Steve Krebs, who claimed the gelded son of Swear by Dixie for \$15,000 in August 2004, the Pennsylvania-bred won six stakes, including the Gravesend Handicap-G3, and amassed state-bred bonuses that helped boost his breeder Betsy Houghton to the top of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund charts.



## 50 years ago

■ Legendary trainer Hirsch Jacobs died a few months before the 1970 classics, but his family gave him full credit when homebreds Personality won the Preakness and High Echelon the Belmont Stakes. “He bred three generations back of that horse,” said his oldest son, head trainer John Jacobs, about Personality, a product of homebred champions Hail to Reason and Affectionately.

The classic duo were raised at 280-acre Stymie Manor in Monkton, Md., the only farm Hirsch Jacobs ever owned, which he purchased in the late 1940s from money earned by his great handicap horse, former claimer Stymie. The family was making arrangements to sell the farm and all the horses that fall, and syndicate Personality and High Echelon.

For decades Jacobs’ horses—bred in partnership with Isidor Bieber—were foaled in Kentucky and shipped as weanlings to Maryland, where they would stay until Jacobs picked them up to go to the track at 2. Among the current crop of yearlings was a full-sister to Personality; a half-sister to High Echelon by Bold Ruler; a filly out of Affectionately’s stakes-winning half-sister Priceless Gem; and a Hail to Reason filly out of Stymie’s daughter Lipstick.

*High Echelon’s little sister never raced and produced one foal, who never won; Personality’s sister never raced or produced a foal. Priceless*

*Gem’s filly was a minor winner (the mare’s next foal was the great French champion Allez France). Lipstick’s foal, Hail to Beauty, made her mark. She never started, but her stakes-winning daughter Stick to Beauty produced 17 starters, including champion Gold Beauty, who in turn produced champion Dayjur and Grade 1 winner Maplejinsky, the dam of Hall of Famer Sky Beauty.*

■ Editor Snowden Carter was moved by the plight of Stymie Manor manager Bill Albright, who was repeatedly chased out of the Pimlico stable area when trying to park on Preakness day and missed the race. Wrote Carter: “Albright raised the Preakness winner. So what chance for the little guy? It’s the little guy who makes the whole game possible. We should bend over backwards to please him—maybe even take a page out of the Monmouth Park book.” Monmouth offered programs to patrons each week during the summer: Dawn Patrol and handicapping seminars, both free of charge, and a buffet breakfast (only charge for the food) during which racing personalities were interviewed. Carter concluded: “That’s a policy worth applauding.”

■ Ten yearlings, representing half of Allaire duPont’s Woodstock Farm 1969 foal crop, were purchased for resale at Saratoga by Virginia horseman L. Clay Camp. It was the first in a three-year marketing agreement. The yearlings were being prepped at Camp’s Glenmore Farm in Charlottesville, Va., and included a colt



**Personality won the 1970 Preakness for the family of the late Hirsch Jacobs: (from left) son Tommy, daughter Patrice, wife Ethel and, partially hidden, son John, who took over the training duties.**

from the first crop of Buckpasser and fillies by Graustark and Nearctic.

*Sold were future stakes winners Explodent and Home Guard.*

■ Although two months behind schedule, construction on the new 1-mile Penn National Race Course in Grantville, Pa., was progressing rapidly. General manager Barclay Odell said the steelwork for the grandstand was nearing completion and concrete was being poured daily at the 614-acre site in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. It was expected to be completed for a late fall meet.

*Penn National opened two years later on Aug. 30, 1972.*

## 25 years ago

■ “The whirlwind of gray that blew past the finish of the 99th running of the Maryland Hunt Cup did not descend from the heavens. But it may well have seemed that way to those who were watching their most cherished fantasies turn into heart-stopping reality,” reported Margaret Worrall as Arcadia Stable’s Buck Jakes, ridden by Anne Moran, prevailed by a nose over Bachelors’ Hall’s Florida Law, with John Bosley aboard. Doug Croker’s Red and Gray finished third. Buck Jakes’ victory demolished, by three seconds, the race record of 8:33<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> established by \*Ben Nevis II in 1978.

Irish native Moran became the fourth woman to win the Hunt Cup. “You can’t imagine what this means to me,” she said. “I’m the oldest woman (36), with the most children (3) and surely the first foreigner to ride a winner.”

■ Revelstoke, the previous year’s Hunt Cup winner preparing to defend his title,



**Anne Moran and Buck Jakes won the 1995 Maryland Hunt Cup in course record time.**

was euthanized in March when stricken by colitis-X following colic surgery. The 10-year-old son of Smarten, owned by Dolly Fisher and trained and ridden by son Jack, had won four of five sanctioned starts over timber, his lone defeat a second to Ivory Poacher in the 1993 Hunt Cup. Revelstoke was buried in his Hunt

Cup blanket at Dr. John R.S. and Dolly Fisher’s Glenderro Farm in Gumtree, Pa.

■ Louis “Paddy” Neilson III won the 1958 Grand National at Butler when he was 16, and in successive decades won aboard Landing Party (1969), Burnmac (1974) and The Guinea Man (1986). In 1995 he won aboard Tarsky. “I don’t have the vaguest idea what this proves,” said Neilson, 53, “except that I’m old and I don’t know when to quit.”

■ Maryland Million founder Jim McKay received the Federico Tesio award given to “that individual whose positive contributions to the Maryland Thoroughbred industry either recently or cumulatively are deemed to be outstanding.”

■ Foolish Pole, the first starter for Northview Stallion Station’s freshman sire Polish Numbers, was a winner at first asking in April at Keeneland. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Fowler bred and raced the 2-year-old gelding trained by Buddy Raines.





**Banana Republic.** In 1950, arabbers were regulars in Baltimore City much like they were again in 2020 as a source of fresh produce (and face masks and other supplies) to residents following city and state stay-at-home orders to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the *Baltimore Sun* for 50 years—from 1920 until his death in 1970—captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

Image #51-475 [www.aaubreybodine.com](http://www.aaubreybodine.com)

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During this difficult and trying time, we wish to thank all the breeders who will have sent their mares to our stallions during the 2020 breeding season.

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# Getting down to business.

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